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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE CONFERENCES AT VIENNA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

VIENNA, March 31.

THE *mot d'ordre* at Vienna is "peace." Diplomats and their secretaries, and men who have access to the sources of information, hold, with few exceptions, the same language, and express confident hopes that the war will be brought to a speedy and

honourable close. To hint a doubt of such a result submits the man of little faith to the supposition that he is either an ill-informed or a prejudiced person. A very few weeks will suffice to show whether these hopes are destined to fulfilment; but, in the meantime, the English public may be enabled to judge of the extent to which they are well-founded by a short statement of the facts that have led to them.

Prince Gortschakoff II., and M. Titoff, the Russian Plenipo-

tentiaries, are exceedingly able diplomatists. They have studied in the best school. They know how to yield to necessity, and to turn unfavourable circumstances to account. The world was prepared to find in them a spirit of resistance; and to make all possible allowance for any hesitation, or even obstinacy, which they might betray in the course of the negotiations. But no one was prepared for the extreme readiness to meet the Allies half-way, if not more than half-way, which they displayed at the commence-



SOUTH MIDDLESEX.

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ROYAL WILTS.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX.

HANTS ARTILLERY.

MILITIA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

ment of the Conferences, and which has since characterised the whole of their proceedings. The mere consent of Russia to treat on the basis of the Four Points was to have been expected; for it was but the renewal of a policy adopted by the late Czar, and which could not have been disallowed by Alexander II., without an open defiance to all Europe. But the alacrity with which the first two points were conceded was scarcely to have been anticipated. The First Point, as is well known, concerns the joint protectorate of the Great Powers over the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia—a protectorate hitherto exercised by Russia alone, and the abuse of which, and the pretensions founded upon it, was one of the main causes of the war. The Second Point provides for the free navigation of the Danube. It is the general impression in Vienna that both of these points have been fully, fairly, and honestly conceded by Russia. Had they been conceded by the Emperor Nicholas previous to the declaration of war, it is almost, if not positively, certain either that no war would have taken place, or that, if Turkey had been dissatisfied with the arrangement, she would have been left without assistance to fight her own battles. Both points are of the greatest consequence to all Europe; and to Austria, more especially, the second is of vital importance. The exact conditions and stipulations by which the free navigation of the Danube is to be secured are not publicly known. The details of the business transacted at the Conferences are transmitted only to the Governments of the several States which take part in them, and although some particulars ooze out from time to time, it might possibly mislead if I repeated any of the rumours which have been circulated upon the subject: and I therefore content myself with the simple announcement that the arrangements, whatever they may be, are represented as entirely satisfactory to the representatives of the Allied Governments: and that they will, in all probability, be equally satisfactory to the public.

The Third Point was universally foreseen to offer the only difficulty that the Conferences were likely to present. But on this, also—much to the surprise of everybody—the Russian Plenipotentiaries have hitherto displayed the utmost readiness to yield what is demanded of them. It thus becomes of importance to know exactly what these demands are. The surrender of Sebastopol? By no means. The reply of the Russians to such a demand, had it been made, would very naturally have been: "You have failed to take Sebastopol by force of arms,—you are upon the soil of Russia,—the sooner you quit it the better we shall be satisfied; but, under the circumstances, you cannot ask us to yield to your diplomacy what you have not been able to accomplish by the sword." Possibly, the Russians are not without the fear that, pending the negotiations, the place may be taken; and most certainly the people of Great Britain and France, and I may add of Austria, are not without the hope that such will be the result. In Austria the sympathies of the entire population (a few of the upper nobility alone excepted, who unwisely look upon Russia as a standing barrier against Democracy and Revolution), are in favour of Turkey and the Western Powers; and news of the fall of Sebastopol would be received in this city with acclamations of delight—in which, if public opinion be not quite incorrect, no man would share more warmly than the young Emperor himself. Until the Third Point shall have passed definitively through the ordeal of the Conferences, the possibility of this result will continue with the fullest intensity to occupy the thoughts of the whole public. If their hopes be realised the Conferences will take a new turn; and Russia, as usual, will make a virtue of necessity, and accommodate her policy to a fact which she will no longer be able to overturn or even to modify. In the meantime, neither Sebastopol nor any portion thereof being in the possession of the Allies, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and France, in accordance with those of Austria and Turkey, deemed it advisable to draw up the Third Point in more general terms; and to stipulate only for the reduction of the naval forces of Russia in the Black Sea. The Russian Ambassadors have as readily as on the first two points expressed the willingness of their Imperial master that Russian preponderance in that sea shall cease. But by what means the result is to be obtained has not up to the present moment been taken into official consideration, however earnestly the individual members of the Conference may have turned the subject over in their own minds, and to whatever extent they may have been instructed by the Governments which they represent. Sebastopol, and its future fate or condition, has not, it appears, been mentioned on either side. The question remains—is Russia quite sincere in conceding so much as she has done? although her concessions, great as they are, may appear small to those who look for military as well as diplomatic triumph. If she be sincere, it can only be for the reason that the new Czar really desires peace; either because he disapproves of the policy of the war which his father so wantonly and wickedly commenced; or because, not disapproving of it, he feels himself unable to prosecute it against the whole of Europe, and possibly against the dead weight of his own empty exchequer. If the first of these two suppositions should be correct, it would scarcely be prudent on the part of the Allies, to attach to the treaty of pacification any conditions degrading to the Czar and his nation. On the contrary, it would be both generous and politic, to allow the wise and temperate Sovereign such terms as would spare his own *amour propre* and that of his people to the utmost possible extent; and thereby avoid the risk that might otherwise be incurred of exasperating the Russians against their Sovereign, and replacing him on the throne by a more violent and less scrupulous monarch.

If the second supposition be correct—the same reasons for forbearance would not exist; and the Allies would be justified in exacting such material guarantees as would compel the Czar to keep the peace in the days when his Exchequer might be replenished; and when disunion among the Powers of Europe, on some other question, might offer him an opportunity of aggression, too captivating to be resisted. Seen from this point of view, the actual concessions of Russia, would be concessions to fear, and not to justice. Under such circumstances the course to be pursued by the Allies would be clear before them. Greater pressure, less forbearance, and the strictest determination to exact the whole "pound of flesh" from a foe, discomfited for the moment, but powerful and ambitious enough to renew the war on the first favourable occasion—such would be the duties that would devolve

upon Great Britain, France, and Austria. The alliance between the three Powers is, up to the present time, complete and cordial enough to justify the anticipation that Austria is ready to share not alone the diplomacy, but the battle-fields, of the Western Powers. Austria has a splendid army of 600,000 men; and though she desires peace—and what Power in Europe does not?—she will be prepared for war, in case of necessity—and for war on the same side with France and England.

But the world knows too much of Russian diplomacy to trust it implicitly. If there were anything in Russian history, past or present, which could entitle that Power to claim the slightest credit for honesty towards other States, the supposition of bad faith might appear ungenerous. But the treachery of Russia is proverbial; and it is no libel upon the character of her rulers and her statesmen to consider it not only a possible, but a probable, thing, that in conceding so much as she has already done, and in taking such an infinitude of pains to impress the world with the idea of her moderation, she is true to her antecedents by playing false to her foes. "*Reculer pour mieux sauter*" is an axiom that the well-trained and astute diplomatists in the service of the late and the present Czar, have long learned to reverence and to act upon. If, by the display of apparent forbearance and moderation, Russia can work upon the dislike which Austria for many reasons—principally financial and domestic—entertains against war; she can detach that Power from the alliance with Great Britain and France, or impair and weaken to its slightest extent the *entente cordiale* now existing between the three—her diplomatists would achieve a triumph peculiarly Russian, and peculiarly mischievous. In this would lie the actual danger of the present state of affairs in Vienna, if the Emperor of Austria were not an honest man, surrounded by able as well as honest advisers. But Francis Joseph is honest and sincere; and those courageous and far-seeing men whom he has called to his councils, are too wise to become the dupes of Russia, and too patriotic to pursue any line of policy that would not conduce to the ultimate honour, and thereby to the enduring advantage of their country.

The Conference—which commenced the preliminary discussion upon the Third Point on Thursday last, the 29th inst.—adjourned after the meeting of that afternoon to Monday, the 2nd of April. It appears, however, that the discussions on that point, which are likely to last a very considerable time, will not immediately be resumed; but that the Fourth Point, which stipulates for the revision of all the treaties in existence between Russia and Turkey previous to the war, will be the subject of the next Conferences. So much the better. The longer the Third Point is kept in abeyance, the greater the chance that Sebastopol will fall in the interim or that the British fleet in the Baltic will do its part towards cutting the Gordian knot which the Plenipotentiaries in this capital are attempting to untie.

Next to their own Emperor—who, since his marriage, has become more popular than ever among all classes of his subjects—the chief favourite of the Viennese is the Emperor of the French. There has been a rumour current for the last few days that Napoleon III. would pass through Vienna *en route* for the Crimea, and though the rumour has not the slightest foundation, it acquires interest from the manner in which the Viennese have received it, and from the determination they express to give him a most enthusiastic welcome. The sentiments of esteem and admiration which the Austrian Emperor expressed towards his Imperial brother of France have found an echo among the people; and if, by any chance, he should hereafter visit this city, not even London will give him a more brilliant ovation.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys is expected here on Wednesday, to share the Conferences on the part of the French Government. It is also stated, but the fact is not considered quite certain, that Great Britain will immediately send a third Plenipotentiary to act with the Earl of Westmoreland and Lord John Russell.

MILITIA AT PORTSMOUTH.

THE group of Militia Officers and Privates engraved upon the preceding page has been sketched by our Artist at Portsmouth, where these regiments were doing garrison duty. Commencing from the left hand, the first is a private of the South Middlesex Militia; and the next figure is that of a private of the Royal Wiltshire Militia, in marching order. Next are two of the bandmen of the South Middlesex. The figure in the centre is that of an officer of the Royal Wiltshire, in undress; and next him is an officer of the South Middlesex, in full dress. The figure whose head is next shown is that of a private of the Hampshire Militia Artillery; and the extreme right-hand front figure is that of an officer of the same regiment; and the figure in the rear is that of an Artillery private.

THE HAMPSHIRE ARTILLERY MILITIA.—A considerable number of the men of this corps, which recently arrived to do duty at Woolwich, on Monday last, followed the example of some of the militia corps in the north, and demanded and obtained their discharges, which they claimed after fifty-six days' service, in terms of the Act of 1852. The well-conducted men that remain will receive £2 10s. each of bounty, and be granted one month's leave of absence.

THE City of London Regiment of Militia, numbering nearly 600 strong, have, to the number of 150, expressed their readiness for Colonial service.

RUSSIAN DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS.—All the approaches to St. Petersburg are strongly fortified. The extremity of the point of the Vasilostroff and the banks of the river, near the gulf, are covered with fortifications and batteries. The whole of the Gulf of Cronstadt, on both sides, is nothing but an immense fortification, bristling with great guns, and defended by 40,000 men of the very best troops, and protected, besides, by 40,000 seamen in gun-boats moored along the shore. The fleet is completely dismantled; and, if necessary, the same sacrifice will be resorted to as at Sebastopol. Similar preparations are being made at Revel and Sveaborg, and vessels loaded with stones are all ready to be sunk to the bottom. Although Cronstadt is considered impregnable, yet great apprehensions are felt of these monster gun-boats which are said to be in course of construction in France and England, for it is well known that they are the only vessels that can approach Cronstadt. Should they burn the town and fortifications, they could then easily arrive at this capital. Workmen are actively employed in setting up a line of telegraphic posts along the coast from St. Petersburg to Riga and Abo. They are so arranged as that they will have a sort of pigeon-house on the top, fixed in four tall pieces of wood, and from them signals will be transmitted concerning the enemy's fleet. Warning has been given to the French residents here not to go outside the walls, as, though they were safe in St. Petersburg, the authorities do not hold themselves responsible for them outside. The feeling is much stronger in Russia against the English than against the French, and not a single English foreman remains in any of the factories. All have been replaced by Americans; these latter have also the management of the railway from this city to Moscow, and are exceedingly well treated. Alexander II. is well inclined, it is said, to peace, but the question is, can he make it? All I can say is, that the war is assuming more and more a fanatical character, and the army on its march is everywhere supplied with every kind of refreshment. The Government no longer gives any pay to the soldiers or seamen; it feeds and clothes them, and that is all.—*Letter from St. Petersburg.*

A THOROUGH TRAVELLER.—Amongst the passengers who arrived in England by the last West India packet was Captain Petre. He sold out of a regiment of Dragoons some years since to gratify his love of travelling. He has travelled nearly over the world. His last journey was across the American continent, from Buenos Ayres to Chili, over the Pampas and the Andes.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

It seems probable that the day named for the departure of the Emperor and Empress for London, the 16th inst., will see the realisation of the project. In its execution, the Peace party insist on seeing a symptom of the furtherance of their views, and they cite a few random words said to have been pronounced by the Chef de l'Etat in confirmation of the idea.

It is said that magnificent plans are being formed for the reception of the Queen here, both by the Court and by the country, and that her Majesty is to be *à la fois* right royally.

There is a question of increasing the effective of the Imperial Guard to 40,000 men; the extra number to be selected among the troops which have particularly distinguished themselves in the present campaign. There is even some idea of establishing a special bureau for this body at the Ministère de la Guerre.

Although the visit of the Emperor and Empress to London, and the probable one of the Queen to Paris, indefinitely defers the expedition to the Crimea, the plan is still fully entertained. Among other preparations, the Sultan has ordered twelve sets of the most magnificent housings, for as many Arab horses, to be presented to the Empress.

It is still expected that the Great Exhibition will open on the day originally named—the 1st of May. We doubt the fact; but we may be wrong. Meantime, amid all the preparations that are being made for the reception of visitors, foreign and provincial, those for the care of their creature comforts are being carried on to the most unlimited extent. Right and left, in the way and out of the way, restaurants, and buffets, and gargottes are springing up, for the entertainment of man, if not for beast—at all prices and of all qualities. There is the Diner de l'Exposition, whereof we have already given an account to our readers; La Société de Gastronomie; La Société des Buffets de Paris; Le Diner de Paris; to say nothing of innumerable smaller fry, where people sit down and eat hot dinners, or stand up and satisfy the cravings of appetite with cold. The *entente cordiale* is kept up and utilised by most of these entertainments bearing the extra title of Anglo-Français. The Buffets de Paris is about to open on the *rez de chaussée* of the immense house built by an Englishman, Mr. Richard Wallace, on the ground lately occupied on the Boulevard by the Bains Chinois: the rent of the part of the ground floor thus occupied amounts to the sum of 56,000 fr., upwards of £2200. The Hôtel d'Osmond, one of the most elegant habitations in Paris, situated in the Rue Basse du Rempart, opposite the Rue de la Paix, is one of the most important mansions destined to be converted to this purpose. It is to be converted into a *cercle-restaurant*—a sort of dining club, of the first class—where everything is to be conducted on the most splendid scale.

The grand steeplechase of the Croix de Berny, looked forward to for months by the "sportsmen" who had made their "stut-bocks" for the occasion, was an utter failure on account of the weather: out of thirty horses inscribed, but nine started; and of these, five—exhausted by the state of the ground, which in some places was little better than a quagmire—fell before nearing the end of the course; while the spectators sat through the whole ceremony under a small freezing rain.

Paris, we learn, is about to be favoured by the presence of Lola Montes, who, it is said, is married for the —? time. The present worse half is, we believe, a gold-digger, whom the Comtesse de Lansfeld picked up at Grass Valley, and whose millions she proposes to dispose of here: this done, we suppose the gold-digger will be disposed of in his turn—*que ne nous regarde pas.*

It is said by some that the Exposition de l'Industrie will not have received anything like the whole amount of the objects to be exhibited before the end of May or beginning of June, but that it will, nevertheless, open on the day appointed. Another report states that the Emperor, in conformity with the appeals addressed to him by certain members of French commerce, more especially in the Faubourg St. Antoine, has expressed a desire that a supplementary gallery to supply the want of space complained of shall be added; and if the difficulties—which are great—for the execution of this work can be surmounted, it is probable the opening of the building will be deferred till the addition can be completed.

A book that is likely to address itself to the interest of the world in general is a history of the late Emperor of Russia, about to be published by M. Leonzou-Leduc.

The success of "Le Demi-Monde" continues to be prodigious: boxes require to be engaged many days previously by those who crowd to see the piece. On the night of its first representation, the Prince Napoleon sent to M. Alexandre Dumas *filz* two magnificent shirt-studs in diamonds. The Porte St. Martin is about to produce an adaptation of one of the novels of M. Maquet, the author of the popular piece "Le Comte de Laverne," entitled "La Belle Gabrielle," for the *début* of Fechter. On the 10th inst. the Opéra Comique is about to produce a new work by MM. Ambroise Thomas and Rosier, "La Cour de Célimène." The piece is said to be one of particular merit and importance, and is being brought out with the utmost care and attention. The principal parts are to be sung by Bataille, Jourdan, and Mesdames Miolan-Carvalho and Colson.

AMERICA.

The mail steam-ship *Nashville*, which sailed from New York on the 21st ult., arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday.

The most important news by the present arrival is from California. The dates from San Francisco are the 26th February. The intelligence of the failure of Page and Bacon, of St. Louis, had reached California, and caused one of the greatest monetary panics ever known; and so great was the run upon the banks and banking houses, that the heaviest and most important were obliged to give way to the pressure and close up their concerns.

An official document from the President of the United States proclaims the reciprocity treaty in full force from the 16th ult.

The *New York Herald* says:—"The letter of our Washington correspondent develops a new programme with reference to Cuba, originated by Secretary Marcy, and to be carried out by our new Minister to Madrid, Mr. Dodge. The length, breadth, and scope of this new plan is comprehended in the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba. The alternative presented to Spain is to be free trade with Cuba, or a repeal of the neutrality laws, and the encouragement of Filibusterism."

The Canadian Government has introduced a bill to the Legislative Assembly for abolishing the postage on all newspapers published in Canada. This measure will involve a sacrifice of revenue to the amount of about 30,000 dollars a year; but it is believed that the amount will be cheerfully made up by the people.

The Governor of Halifax has received authority to raise a foreign legion for the British service there, with a couple of regiments formed of persons born subjects of the English Government.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The Bombay papers received by the last Overland Mail—of which we gave a telegraphic notice last week—represent India as tranquil throughout, with the exception of some slight marauding on the frontier. On the 9th ult. a robbery was committed by about 200 hill men, near Peshawur, on a camp close by a police station, where some thirty people lost their lives—the robbers escaping.

Oude and the Nizam's dominions continue filled with disorder. The education despatch arrangements are beginning to be put in force, and forty thousand a year will, it is said, henceforth be allowed for the supervision of an educational system, which has never hitherto cost more than eighty thousand altogether.

The Calcutta Military Board has been extinguished, and those of the other Presidencies are about to encounter the same fate; a separate department for Public Works is to be brought into existence in their room.

The Governor-General has left Calcutta for the Neilgherry Hills, and is

said to have asked permission to return to England next year from this sanitarium without revisiting Bengal. Lords Harris and Elphinstone are at their respective seats of Government, both in the enjoyment of good health.

The first of the transports with troops from Bombay for the Crimea left on the 10th of January, and reached Suez on the 8th of February, occupying twenty-nine days on the way. The last of the 10th Hussars, having been dispatched, steamers and transports left Bombay on the 24th to carry the 12th Lancers from Mangalore; and, as they have no such conveniences for shipment there as we have here, they can scarcely well have got embarked and be ready for sea earlier than the 10th inst., reaching Suez on the 14th proximo, and Constantinople, at the rate assigned, about the 7th of May, or about a month later than by the Cape.

The *Overland Friend of China*, of Feb. 15th, publishes in a supplement two communications regarding the repulse of the French from the city of Shanghai. In one of them the loss is said to be 1000 Imperialists, in killed and wounded; and the French between forty and fifty men, including two officers killed and four wounded.

GLOOMY PROSPECTS FOR RUSSIA.—The treasury of the Government is empty. Should the war only go on for another year or two, the nobility will be ruined, and all Russia will be in great distress. Here in St. Petersburg we are now almost without coachmen or boatmen, both classes having gone either to the army or to the navy. You cannot form an idea of the difficulty we have had this winter to get in our wood and other household stores from want of hands. Nearly every able-bodied man is in the army or navy. Every kind of provision except flour is at enormous prices.—*Letter from St. Petersburg.*

A PRINCE INCOG.—A Jewish banker, of Frankfort, while proceeding to Vienna by railway not long since, fell into conversation with a gentleman of very pleasing manners, who was in the same carriage with him, and so delighted was the banker with his new acquaintance, that he offered to give him a letter of recommendation to his daughter, who was well married in Vienna, and might be of service to him. The gentleman thanked him, and, with a smile, said, "I also have one of my daughters married at Vienna, and she has made a very tolerable match." "Pray, may I presume," said the banker, "to ask the name of her husband?" "It is the Emperor of Austria," was the answer, the gentleman being Prince Maximilian of Bavaria.—*Vienna Wanderer.*

FRENCH AND ENGLISH JOURNALS IN RUSSIA.—A St. Petersburg letter in the *Patrie* notices as a remarkable circumstance that since the commencement of the war all the French and English journals which used to be overhauled by the Censors have been allowed freely to enter the capital, and to lie about on the tables in all the cafes. The London *Punch* and the Paris *Chorivari*, with their broad caricatures of everything Russian, are now the favourite reading in St. Petersburg. Nicholas I. suddenly doing violence to the habits of his whole life, and reversing the established policy of the empire, ordered shortly before his death the free admission of all foreign journals without distinction; and Alexander II. has hitherto sanctioned the continuance of the innovation. The object of the new measure is supposed to be to excite the orthodox nobility against the infidel enemy. "You see how they insult your Emperor, and how they speak of yourselves." The Censors, from old habit, sometimes scratch out a few lines; but, as a general rule, all the Paris and London papers may now be seen unutilized.

SUPPOSED DEATH OF AMMUNITION IN SEBASTOPOL.—Soon after dark the French opened on the left a more vigorous bombardment against the town than has yet been attempted. All their new mortar batteries opened, and a terrific discharge followed. A series of cascades of stars, as it were, played into the town, falling with such regularity, that seen from the distance of the right attack, it appeared more like a *feu d'artifice* than the discharge of so much heavy metal. Behind the batteries of minor weight some of the large 18-inch mortar works were opened, the shells from which rose to an amazing height before they fell on the devoted town. The crash of their explosion reverberated among the hills. This continued shelling was kept up for some hours, and must have caused vast destruction. The fire of the Russian riflemen against the embrasures of the advanced works, active enough at first, gradually subsided. But the most wonderful part of the spectacle was the almost total absence of any flash from the Russian batteries. A complete silence reigned along their whole line. To fifty or a hundred shells thrown from the French, and from some of the works on Greenhill, scarcely one replied from the Russians. This formed so remarkable a contrast with the usual activity of the enemy's batteries, that it became the subject of much speculation. Whether there was really a dearth of ammunition, or whether from such a terrible shower of metal it had been thought prudent for the gunners to conceal themselves as they best could until the hottest part of the storm was over, was equally uncertain. During the French attack on the night of the 14th instant, an Irishman, who had been two years in Sebastopol, managed to effect his escape to our lines, and he represented that there was great apprehension in the garrison respecting our opening the new batteries. Whatever the cause, while an uninterrupted shower of shells was being poured into the town, scarcely a shell or shot was returned to check the fire or in retaliation. There was equal silence preserved in the Redan, and in the works around the Malakoff Tower, on the right—although from time to time the Lancaster and 21-gun batteries, and the French battery at Inkerman, maintained a fire against the parties supposed to be working in the new Mamelon redoubt. We must look to time alone for the explanation. The bombardment of last night on the left is a sample of what will be the fire against the town and arsenal when all the new works are opened.—*Letter from the Camp, March 19.*

EXPEDITION PRIVATELY FITTED OUT AT CAPE TOWN, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, TO EXPLORE IN THE INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA, BY MESSRS. GREEN AND ANDERTON.—Mr. Green, accompanied by a Mr. Dalton, sailed from Cape Town in September last, for Walvisch Bay, on the west coast of Africa. Starting from Walvisch Bay, they purposed to proceed overland to Lake G'nami. They have fitted out two waggons, and have taken an extra number of draught oxen, horses, &c., and the requisite supplies for a two years' expedition. On one waggon, instead of the usual body, Mr. Green has had a boat built by Mr. Hueston, of Cape Town, on the life-boat principle, which will be conveyed on waggonwheels to Lake G'nami. The boat in transitu is so fitted up as to answer and furnish all the accommodation afforded by the usual Cape waggon, and on reaching the Lake G'nami will be of invaluable service. The object in taking a boat is to follow out the river Tionga, and to trace, if the G'nami has any communication or outflow on the western coast. Mr. Green also purposed to explore further, and to solve the correctness of a report of the natives of the existence of a lake said to be 300 miles to the north of the G'nami. Mr. Anderton, who co-operates with Mr. Green, was one of the first travellers who penetrated from Walvisch Bay, on the west coast, to the lake. Mr. Green is an experienced and acclimatized African traveller: he is son of the late Assistant-Commissioner on the frontier of the Cape colony. In 1850 he reached the territory of Sekonje, the Bemengwati chief. In 1851, in company of Captain E. Shelley and Mr. E. Bushe, he reached the G'nami, and penetrated to the N.W., further than any European had previously done. In 1852 he again proceeded a very long way to the north-west. In 1853 he penetrated to within thirty miles of Delagou Bay, on the east coast of Africa. From his experience in African life and travelling, and his acquaintance with the language, habits, and customs of the natives of South Africa, Mr. Green is well qualified for the arduous and hazardous enterprise which he has undertaken.—*From a Correspondent.*

A VISIT TO THE CAMP.—What a sad noisy place it is—such bargaining, quarrelling, I should fancy quite equal to the original Donnybrook. The French soldiers were all busy, some making roads, others carrying fascines, &c., and I was much struck with their cleanly appearance. I passed several "vivandieres," looking really smart and pretty—a very small glass of good brandy they gave for 6d. I got early to—'s tent, and was at once warmly received; would not hear of my going back till the following day; lunched, and set out for a stroll, and to get a good view of Sebastopol, which I was surprised to see so very little damaged. It looked very pretty and very quiet; boats were plying in the harbour, and ladies walking about; it looked like anything but what I expected a besieged town would appear. We saw our besieging batteries, and took a long turn through the various camps of several divisions. Met many I knew, and was surprised at the very healthy though rough appearance of them all; and they all seemed satisfied and happy. Hospitality is certainly one of the most distinguishing features of camp life: everyone offered a welcome, and all had a something in the eating and drinking way to offer. We got back by five or half-past; had a wash in some freezing water; pulled off my boots, which were knee-deep in mud, put on another borrowed pair, and a dry, warm coat, and at six dined. There were eight of us in all. We had mutton broth and sheep's head, salmon and lobster from preserved tins, roast mutton, fowls, ham, capital bread, cheese, loads of sauces, sherry, port, and porter; and all of us in capital spirits. The stove was troublesome; having no funnel, it was kept outside till the smoke was gone, and with the smoke went most of the heat in the men's tents; close to us we heard all sorts of jovial singing old familiar songs; and no set of men could to all appearance have been happier than those besieging Sebastopol, though it was blowing hard and snowing, and any moment their songs might have been stopped by war in its stern reality. We heard constant firing of heavy guns and musketry, which my companions seemed insensible to the noise of. By ten p.m. the singing and fiddling among the men ceased, but we sat chatting and talking till twelve. I had a tent to myself to sleep in, a camp bed, and plenty of warm clothing, and a very good fire. The tent pole was hung round with hams. It blew very hard, and the tent shook so that I expected it would blow down; however, I suffered no misfortune beyond a few hams tumbling on me. Turned out and had a cold wash. Breakfasted at eight—coffee, mutton chops, fried potatoes. A Frenchman brought from the French camp some excellent bread, but dear—2s. for a small loaf. At nine I mounted and rode to headquarters. Near Lord Raglan's little bit of road; loads of carriages, carts, and all sorts of things piled up; plenty of turkeys and poultry strutting about—in fact, his quarters have a good deal the appearance of a Dutch farmyard, nothing to denote that it was the Commander-in-Chief's.—*Letter from Balaklava, March 21.*

The collection of plaster casts, busts, bassi-relievi, in the Louvre, is now being removed to the Ecole des Beaux Arts, as the rooms occupied by them are to be set apart for antiquities.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

A telegraphic despatch from the Allied Camp announces that active operations were to commence on Tuesday last, the 3rd of April, but it is highly questionable whether the Russians would allow them to wait so long. The sortie on the night of the 22nd ult., of which we first heard from St. Petersburg, proves to have been a much more serious affair than General Osten-Sacken represented it; in fact, a battle rather than a sortie. The Russian despatch admitted that the "loss on both sides was considerable;" but affirmed that that of the French was greater than the loss of the attacking party. General Canrobert, however, states that the Russians were repulsed with the loss of 2000 men, while that of the French was only 600.

The point of attack was the same position which had been the scene of minor struggles for many nights previous to this extensive sortie. The bold and successful occupation by the Russian engineers of the height known as Gordon's-hill delayed, by threatening to enfilade the newly-constructed batteries of the besiegers, the commencement of the bombardment, and opposed an unexpected impediment to the progress of the Allies. The attempt made by General Monet to dislodge the enemy from this advantageous position failed, it will be remembered, chiefly through the misconduct of the Marines engaged in that enterprise. The Russians laboured with great activity to render their new position unassailable, and at the same time rapidly advanced their lines in direction of the Allied trenches. To facilitate the latter enterprise, the rifle-pits, which were the source of three sanguinary struggles, were excavated by the enemy. The French engineers had been equally active in sapping towards the newly-constructed Russian redoubt, which, although most menacing to the Allies as an offensive work, was ill-calculated, from its isolated position, to resist successfully a heavy cannonade. The rapid progress of the French works naturally excited a sentiment of apprehension in the minds of the Russian engineers, and they resolved to direct an overwhelming attack upon that position. The moral condition of the garrison of Sebastopol, elated by the arrival of reinforcements and by the transient successes of previous nocturnal contests, favoured this determination. On the night of the 22nd of March this carefully-prepared sortie was executed, with what success we have already stated.

From the fact of several British officers having fallen in the field, it appears that a portion of our army was engaged in this nocturnal action. The meagre accounts derived from the despatch of General Canrobert throw no light upon the assistance afforded by the British army; but, from our knowledge of the positions occupied by the Allies, we are enabled to form some notion of the part taken by our troops. The point of attack was entirely in the occupation of the French, and it is therefore probable that, owing to the serious nature of the sortie, the whole Allied force stood to arms, and that a portion of the British army marched to support the French, and contributed to the fortunate issue of the engagement.

As regards the operations contemplated by the Allies, we are entirely in the dark at present, but it is impossible that the present state of inaction can last much longer. The Allied force now encamped on the heights before Sebastopol is of sufficient numerical strength to permit the detachment of corps d'armées in the necessary directions; and there can be little doubt that, if assistance were sent to Omer Pacha, the Turkish Generalissimo would be enabled to take the field, and advance either on the Alma or on Bagtcheseraï, which is the true basis of the Russian position in the Crimea. A second corps d'armées might be disembarked, if found practicable, in the vicinity of the River Katscha, and thus force the Russian army either to abandon its positions on the Alma or to incur the risk, in case of an advance of Omer Pacha from Eupatoria, of being taken between two fires. Were even a third corps to operate in the rear of Balaklava, and, if possible, force the passage of the Tchernaya, an army would still exist in sufficient strength to conduct the operations of the siege and defend the Allied lines.

We have had no reliable news from Eupatoria for some time. The Russian papers speak of Omer Pacha being about to attack the army employed to operate against that town; but it seems merely a rumour.

THE CRIMEA SPRING MEETING

A great display of "shamrocks" and fun took place at the grand races, which, *pour passer le temps*, were got up by the Fourth Division, on St. Patrick's-day. This was the first race which the infantry have started since the Allies entered the Crimea, now more than six months since. About a week previously the Cavalry Division managed a capital race, which was well attended and better arranged; and, stimulated by the example, the infantry have determined to continue those "Spring Meetings," which last year did so much to enliven the tedium of our quarters in Bulgaria.

The course was laid out with much care on the heights, among the Fourth Division; and, though the wind blew with an intense coldness, which nothing could withstand, yet some 300 or 400 horsemen mustered up sufficient courage to attend the "meet." French officers were there in all their glory, on long-maned, long-tailed horses, which would do nothing but canter and fret; and English officers were there, too, on rough-coated, gaunt-looking quadrupeds—veterans which have survived not only the charge at Balaklava, but, worse still, a winter in our Camp. Meny steeds, and steeds with their worn flanks, were rather numerous, it is true; but, on reflecting upon the trials which these miserable animals had undergone, one was almost led to regard them as emblems of endurance and vitality, and as animals on which one might depend to withstand even the blighting efforts of Quartermasters and Adjutant-Generals. The races were like most other races in their general features—that is, there was a starting-post (which appeared to be the bane of the whole concern), and a starter against whose start every one but the winners formally protested, and last of all, a winning post, with a very grand stand, formed by the hut planking, placed on broken arabas and piles of stones. The jockeys, of course, were officer amateurs, some of whom appeared in the prescribed breeches and tops, and all of whom laid foundations for subsequent catarrhs, as, wanting distinguishing colours, they were compelled to ride in their flannel shirts. At each start, the soldiers who lined the course shouted amazingly, and their vocal efforts did more to stimulate the nags into racing speed than all the efforts of their riders. Who were the winners it is almost impossible to say, as each decision was fiercely contested; and, according to individual rumours every one who started a horse won the race. Two, however, were won beyond all dispute by a little midshipman from the Naval Brigade, of the name of Molyneux; and the hurdle race, the very last of the day, and in which there were a couple of nasty jumps, by Captain Wilkins. All these races, in which some heavy "croppers" might have been reasonably expected, passed off without accident; but in the mule race, to which all looked forward as a piece of fun, two of the riders got most severe falls, and had to be assisted from the ground.

The races lasted throughout the greater part of the day, and the garrison of Sebastopol—which was full in sight—was moved to unusual alertness by the shouting of the soldiers, and fired repeatedly. Their stray shots and shells were, however, in keeping with the rest of the scene, which was characteristic of the life and amusements of an army in the field. The spectators were soldiers, camp followers, and fatigue parties leading up long strings of commissariat mules, laden with hay, rum, fresh meat, &c.; and the *dile* of the company were officers clad in all the heterogeneous garments intended for winter clothing. On the top of the hill, just above the race-course, the traces of the sufferings of our army were to be seen in the line of graves four deep and half a mile long; while beneath, on the other side, lay Sebastopol—with its shipping, its harbours, its heavy round forts, and crowds of tall white buildings—cold and cheerless, and its grim lines of earthworks encircling all, and occasionally sending forth a dense puff of smoke, followed by the shrill noise of a shell as it whistled through the air and burst in our batteries. Beyond the graves, on the right, the white tents dotted the country for miles; beyond Sebastopol, on the left, lay a dull angry-looking sea, with the white waves breaking fiercely against the sea forts, and forming a line of surf as they rushed over the sunken ships moored across the mouth of the harbour. Such was the scene of the races; but no language can describe the fun, good spirit, and zest with which both men and officers appeared to enter into the sport, equally forgetful, for the time, of their late privations, and careless of the dangers which the future campaign may have in store for them. That our officers and men should so soon have recovered their natural elasticity of spirits, after such an ordeal as the past winter, speaks more forcibly in favour of their courage and endurance than a thousand Ministerial votes of thanks.

[We have received a Sketch of the Races from one of our Artists, who was present, and shall probably give an Engraving from it next week.]

A barque called the *Panama* has just arrived at Southampton, and is to be immediately surveyed, previous to her taking out provisions to the Crimea.

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

War Department, April 2, 1855.

Lord Panmure has this day received two despatches and their enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:—

Before Sebastopol, March 20, 1855.

My Lord,—I do myself the honour to transmit to your Lordship a letter from the Inspector-General of Hospitals, forwarding the weekly return of sick to the 17th inst. The number of sick is not diminished, but the cases are lighter, and every day the men in Camp exhibit a more healthy appearance.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

[Enclosure.]

Before Sebastopol, March 19, 1855.

My Lord,—In transmitting the weekly state of sick of the army to the 17th inst., I have the honour to state that, though the sickness still amounts to 14.31 per cent, the mortality does not exceed 0.51 per cent, which is a proof that the diseases are milder in character; and I think I may safely say the general health and appearance of the men is greatly improved; and, had not the duty, by the unavoidable operations of the siege going on, been increased of late, I think the sick list would have been still more diminished, as the men's condition is in every other way so much improved both in diet, dress, and accommodation.

It has been proposed by the Minister-at-War to give the men tea, coffee, and cocoa, on alternate mornings; and to-morrow your Lordship will receive the report of the Medical Board ordered to consider the subject. The first two I think good, and the change will be both agreeable and beneficial to the men; but cocoa, I am afraid, requires too much preparation to be usefully adopted in the army under present circumstances.

The prevailing diseases are fevers, of a low typhoid form in some instances, and in others assuming an intermittent and remittent type, and bowel complaints. Fevers have been rather on the increase of late, but bowel complaints have become much fewer in number, and milder in character. Scurvy, too, though the number appears large in the return, is on the decrease; and I can assure your Lordship, from recent personal inspection of the men of the different divisions, that the generality of the cases returned under that head are of the most trifling character; and, under the use of the present change of diet, I am in hopes the disease will soon totally disappear from our list.

In the First Division, the Brigade of Guards continues to improve in health and appearance, from its change of situation; and the Brigade of Highlanders is also efficient. The 79th and 93rd are influenced by the locality of their camps, which cannot well be changed, and have more sickness than the 42nd, which are more favourably placed; and in this regiment the most scrupulous attention is paid to the sanitary condition of their camp.

To show how localities affect the health of the men, I may mention the wing of the second Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, which occupies the high promontory of the southern extremity of the Balaklava lines overlooking the sea; and here, though the men are exposed, and the duty is as severe as in any other part of the Camp, there is little or no disease.

In the Second Division, the 1st and 95th Regiments have been more unhealthily than the rest, and have had a larger number of fever cases than others admitted into hospital, and many of them have been of a serious character. It is difficult to account for this, as there is nothing in the locality of the ground occupied by these two regiments different from that of the rest of the division. Perhaps their tents were a little more crowded than the rest; and the hospital huts, from the pressure of sickness, had more men in them than was advisable; but this I directed to be remedied when I visited the hospitals a few days ago.

The health of the Third Division is improved—decidedly so in some of the regiments; and the health of the Fourth and Light Divisions is improved also.

The cavalry, with the exception of the 2nd Dragoons, is in good health; and the health of the 2nd, the superintending medical officer seems to think, has been influenced by local causes that are now in course of removal.

The health of the artillery has been tolerably good during the week, and the cases under treatment, both in the general and convalescent hospitals at Balaklava, have progressed favourably; and when the remainder of the hospital huts at the Castle come into use, I expect great advantage from their occupation, both by convalescents and wounded men, should we unfortunately have any.

I have, &c., J. HALL, Inspector-General of Hospitals.

To Field Marshal Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

Before Sebastopol, March 20, 1855.

My Lord,—In my despatch of the 17th instant I reported to your Lordship the progress made in forming the parallel constructed to unite the right of our right attack with the left of the French on the Inkerman heights.

The contest of the latter with the enemy for the possession of the rifle pits in their immediate front was renewed after dark on that night, and was continued for several hours, the fire being excessively heavy, particularly of musketry, and considerable loss must have been sustained by our allies I fear, as well as by the enemy, who continue to hold the ambuscades; but the French persevere, notwithstanding, in working forward, and are approaching the Mamelon, on which the Russians are busily engaged in building a formidable work, though frequently interrupted by our batteries and those of the French.

On the night of the 17th the English parallels were not attacked, but the fire to which I have above alluded was so continuous, that the whole force was either under arms or ready to turn out.

I inclose the return of casualties to the 18th inst.

It was currently reported yesterday that Prince Menschikoff had died on his way to Moscow. I have not been able to ascertain if this report be founded; but it was so fully credited as to have been dispatched to Constantinople.

Prince Gortschakoff is stated to have arrived at Bagtcheseraï, and to have assumed the command of the army. Reinforcements are reported to be on their way from Russia, and the Ninth Division to have reached the neighbourhood of Eupatoria. The position of the Russian troops in the vicinity of the Tchernaya remains unaltered.

The progress of the railway continues to be satisfactory, and we are already able to use it with considerable advantage, both for the conveyance of supplies and hutting, so far as the high ground some way on this side of Kadikoi. Mr. Beattie's exertions deserve every commendation.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

Nominal Return of Officer, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates, Wounded and Missing, from 16th to 18th March, 1855, inclusive.

WOUNDED.—57th Foot: Lieutenant George Mitchell, dangerously. Royal Sappers and Miners: Private H. Masters, slightly. 77th Foot: Private Robert Wiley, slightly. 49th: Private Thomas Rutledge, dangerously. 89th: Privates John Wall and John Kelly, slightly. Royal Artillery: Sergeant Alexander Hunter, slightly. 34th Foot: Privates Robert Hughes and Andrew Humphries, severely; Private Sidney Vining, slightly. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private Thomas Franklin, severely; Private Emanuel Gillard, slightly.

MISSING.—21st Foot: Private Hugh McGivern.

J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, Adjutant-General.

War Department, April 3.

Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosure, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship, by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:—

Before Sebastopol, March 20, 1855.

My Lord,—It is with deep concern that I transmit to your Lordship's information the copy of a letter, which I received on the 18th instant, from General Canrobert, announcing, with every expression of concern, the death of a British officer, who appears to have wandered into the French camp, and, not answering the challenge that was repeated three times, was shot dead by the French sentry, whose post he had approached.

This officer, Surgeon Le Blanc, of the 9th Foot, occupied a tent near the hospital huts of his regiment, situate at some distance from the encampment of the regiment itself. He was a gentleman of most temperate habits, and was occupied in reading, when, suddenly, upon the alarm sounding, he rose from his seat, leaving his candle lighted and his book open, and walked out; he was never seen alive afterwards.

It should be explained that, shortly after the close of the day on the 17th, there was a very heavy fire on the left of the French right, which was maintained for several hours. None of the English posts were attacked, but it was considered prudent to get the greater portion of our troops under arms. M. Le Blanc was shortsighted, and probably mistook his way from the first, the night being excessively dark, for he was found far distant to the left, and must have wandered from our position without knowing the direction in which he was going.

Being anxious to ascertain the facts of this unfortunate case as correctly as possible, I have set on foot an inquiry, to be conducted by English and French officers, in association with each other, and I propose to do myself the honour to send you their report. I have addressed a similar letter to the General Commanding-in-Chief.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

[Enclosure.]

Head-quarters, March 18th, 1855.

My Lord,—I am grieved to have to inform you of an event, much to be regretted, which painfully engrosses the French army and its Commander-in-Chief.

Last night, whilst the troops were kept perpetually on the alert, an English officer presented himself before the line of the 18th Regiment, established near the Watch-tower behind our trenches of the left attack. Although summoned three times by the *qui vive*, the officer did not reply; the sentinel fired, and he was killed on the spot.

I can hardly understand how this unhappy officer found himself at such an hour so far from the English Camp. I believe that his death can only be attributed to his own imprudence; but I do not the less deplore this event, which must also be attributed to the natural emotion of a young soldier, who, in the midst of the events which marked last night, rigorously executed the military regulation. I have, &c., GENERAL CANROBERT.

Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, &c., &c.



FIRE AT THE CHESTER GRAND STAND.

FIRE AT THE CHESTER GRAND STAND.

On Saturday evening last a destructive fire broke out in the Grand Stand, on the Race-course at Chester, which has destroyed property to a considerable amount. We quote the details from the *Chester Courant* of Wednesday:—

A very serious fire broke out at the Grand Stand on Saturday evening last, which has destroyed property to a considerable amount. For some time past workmen have been engaged at the building; painting, beautifying, and cleansing the interior, and preparing it for the great Spring gathering, which will concentrate the interest of all classes of sportsmen on the first of May next. The building was left by the workmen apparently all safe at a few minutes after four o'clock, but about seven smoke was perceived issuing from the leaden roof, and an alarm was soon raised that "the Stand was on fire." The Castle engine, manned by a detachment of the Royal Artillery, was the first to reach the scene of the conflagration; but, in consequence of a scarcity of water, was unable to get to work for some time. The city engines, with the fire brigade, under the superintendence of Mr. Hill, soon after arrived, and commenced playing upon the devouring element. By this time the fire had made considerable progress, a greater portion of the roof had gone, and the timbers supporting the upper portions of the Stand had been destroyed. The melted lead dropped in scalding streams, and the windows in the balcony were quickly smashed with the heat. The fire was ultimately got under, but not before the whole of the rooms had been gutted, leaving only the ground floor and the outer walls of the edifice remaining. A detachment of the Royal Cheshire Militia was in attendance, and rendered effective service by guarding the engines and hose. It is supposed that the fire was caused by the carelessness of some plumbers who had been employed during the day in repairing the roof. The damage done to the Stand is estimated at £2500. The fire caused an immense sensation throughout the city, and thousands of persons have been attracted to the scene of the disaster.

The property was insured in the West of England Insurance Office for £5000.

The Committee of the Grand Stand Proprietors met at the Exchange on Monday last; present Thomas Dickson, Esq., in the chair; Messrs. T. F. Mad-

dock, Wm. Morris, J. Royle, Thos. Griffith, John Hill, and E. W. Topham; Mr. Penson, architect, also attended; when the following resolutions were proposed and carried:—"That Mr. Royle be authorised to proceed with the restoration of the building with the utmost dispatch in his power, under the direction of Mr. Penson, the architect." "That Mr. Penson be authorised to make a valuation of the damage done by the fire, with the view to lay the same before the Inspector of the West of England Insurance Office." It will thus be seen that the proprietors have taken active measures for the immediate restoration of the building, so as to be available for the Races, which commence on the 1st of May next and we are assured that the building will be ready for use at that time.

The following is the official report of the fire:—

"Saturday, March 31st, 1855.—The Chief Constable reports, for the information of the Watch Committee, at seven o'clock p.m. he received intelligence that the Grand Stand was on fire, when he proceeded immediately to the spot, and found the flames just breaking through the centre of the roof: gave instructions to have an engine brought down, which arrived as quick as the distance which it had to be brought and the difficulty of running the engine up-hill by men would permit. A second engine arrived soon after, and both set to work as soon as possible. The Board of Ordnance engine, from the Castle arrived first; but, in consequence of there not being a sufficient supply of water, and the city engine being of far greater power, the Ordnance engine was immediately stopped. By the time the second city engine arrived a further supply of water was found to feed both engines. The fire was completely got under by half-past eleven o'clock p.m. The awning in front of the Stand, stewards'-room, reporters'-stand, stairs leading to the saloons and roof, first-floor, and refreshment-rooms were all saved. The damage is estimated at £2500."

We understand that, in all probability, the building would have been entirely consumed had it not been for the prompt manner in which the 1st Royal Cheshire Militia, and the detachment of Royal Artillery worked the fire-engines.

The accompanying View is taken from the Race-course, and includes the Grand Stand, part of the Dee Stand, the City Walls, Water-gate, &c.

SHIP STRUCK BY A WHALE.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

I BEG to send you a Sketch of an extraordinary occurrence; namely, the total loss of my vessel, the *Waterloo*, caused by being run down by a whale.

I sailed from Lynn on the 19th ult., being bound to Schiedam, with a cargo of barley. On the 21st, when about fifty miles from Lowestoft, a large whale was perceived to windward, coming down for the vessel, swimming at a fearfully rapid rate, partly out of the water. This was at ten a.m.: there was a strong gale and high sea at the time.

When about ten yards from the ship's side the whale dipped, and struck a fearful blow with his head upon the vessel under water, abreast of the fore-rigging, on the port side. Immediately the vessel was perceived to heel and crack; while the whale plunged into the deep, head foremost, and raised his tail erect, nearly touching the foreyard, and then disappeared.

The pumps were fixed and worked, but by half-past twelve we found the ship had five feet water in the well, and was settling down fast. The long-boat was cleared, and lashings cut away, and nearly floated off the decks, when all hands (six in number) jumped into her, without food or water; myself, the mate, and two men, were without jackets; we had only one oar and a piece of another in the boat, and the sea was running very high. About twenty minutes after we had abandoned the vessel she capsized; and, after floating for about twenty minutes more on her side, she disappeared head foremost.

At the time of the vessel's capsizing, there was a French fishing-boat about four miles to windward, which immediately came to our assistance, and took us all on board; there we were most kindly treated; and at midnight we were landed at Calais, where Mr. Bonham, H.B.M. Consul, provided us with jackets, &c., and sent us to London. Mons. Peter Mulard, the owner of the fishing-boat, and Mons. J. Leelong, the master, as well as the crew, treated us with the greatest kindness; we found them true friends at a time when we were without jackets, food, or money.

EVAN JONES, late Master of the *Waterloo*, of Portmadoc.



THE SCHOONER "WATERLOO" STRUCK BY A WHALE.



THE CRIMEAN MEDAL.

THIS characteristic testimonial of the War has been struck at her Majesty's Mint, in silver, and is now in course of distribution. The design is by Mr. Wyon; the obverse bears the effigies of her Majesty, from the die of the Peninsular Medal. The reverse, engraved in the accompanying Illustration, shows a figure of Fame about to place a wreath upon the brow of a stalwart hero; and the ribbon bears three clasps, inscribed Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman.



ARRIVAL OF THE HIGH SHERIFF OF CHESHIRE AT THE MOTTRAM STATION.

GRAND BANQUET TO THE HIGH SHERIFF OF CHESHIRE.—DEPARTURE FOR THE ASSIZES.

ON Friday (last week) a grand Banquet was given to John Chapman, Esq., of Hill-end, Mottram, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, by the principal gentry and inhabitants of the county, prior to his departure for Chester to meet the Judges of Assize. The Banquet took place at Mottram, at the station of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, of which Mr. Chapman is deputy-chairman. The room was elegantly decorated for the occasion. The day was clear and beautiful, and the assemblage probably the most brilliant that has congregated in Cheshire for many years. The friends of the High Sheriff mustered, not only from all parts of the county, but from many parts of Lancashire, and even so far distant as Sheffield and Grimsby. There were also a very large number of gentlemen from Manchester. The carriages assembled at the house of the High Sheriff, Hill-end, Mottram, at eleven o'clock. There were not fewer than eighty equipages, &c. About half-past eleven o'clock the carriages formed in procession, and proceeded with the High Sheriff to the railway station, where the banquet was given. The High Sheriff's carriage was drawn by four bay horses, and was preceded by an outrider.

THE BANQUET.

It was nearly twelve o'clock before all the company were seated. The chair was taken by John Cheetham, Esq., the Liberal M.P. for South Lancashire; who had on his right John Chapman, Esq., the High Sheriff, and Mrs. Chapman. At the head table were Sir Elkanah Armitage and Lady, William Hutton and Richard Thorold, Esqs., the Sheriff's Chaplain, the Mayor of Sheffield, the Mayor of Grimsby, P. Bazley, Esq., &c., &c., and the assemblage mustered altogether 300 persons.

After the cloth had been withdrawn the Chairman proposed the health of the "Queen." He said we had the happiness to live at a period of our history when the Throne was never surrounded with more dignity and affability on the one hand, and more private worth and excellence on the other (Applause). We had had monarchs who, possessing the courage of Englishmen, had led our armies in the field of victory. That was precluded from the sex of our present Sovereign; but he thought he was correct when he said that we never possessed a Monarch who united so much fervent loyalty, with such implicit obedience to the law, and such affectionate regard to her person. The health of her Majesty was given with every demonstration of loyalty. The band of the 51st Regiment, from Manchester, which was present, then played "God Save the Queen."

The Chairman then proposed "Prince Albert," "The Bishop and Clergy," and "The Army and Navy."

The Chairman next proposed the health of the High Sheriff, which was received most cordially; and alluded to that gentleman's public services as a magistrate for three counties, as an ardent supporter of popular education, as the moving spirit in the prosecution of the Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, and the construction of the Great Grimsby Docks.

The health of the High Sheriff was then drunk, accompanied by three times three and several cheers more; the band playing "The fine old English gentleman."

The High Sheriff, on rising to respond, was loudly applauded. He should be doing an injustice if he attempted to find words to thank them for this great compliment. On similar occasions, as the Chairman had said, the High Sheriff had been honoured before his departure for the assizes, by his own invitation, with the company of his friends: then how great was the honour conferred upon himself, who was now the invited guest of such an assembly as the present! (Loud cheers.) He thanked them most cordially for such a distinguished compliment. He hoped they would excuse him when he said that at one time, after the recent loss in his domestic circle, he doubted if he ought to be present. But considering that this was a public duty—knowing that his friends felt great interest in this event—feeling deeply also their great kindness—knowing, likewise, the gratification of the one to whom he referred, when she heard of the high office conferred upon him—knowing that if she had been spared to-day she would have greatly appreciated their kindness, he could not refuse so great a compliment (Applause). He hoped, therefore, that no one would think he was doing injustice to her memory in being present on this occasion (Applause). He was glad to say that, through the exertions, not only of the clergy, but the laity of all denominations, the duty of High Sheriff was much less onerous than heretofore. We now lived in a period when the Queen's Judges were quite as safe under the protection of octogenarian javelin men as if they had called out the ordinary protectors of the country (Applause). This arose from the progress of the age—from education and the good example of the intelligent classes. It was now discovered that it was far easier to teach a youth his duty to God and his neighbour than to reform the man (Applause); that it was better to bring the youthful portion of the community to a sense of their duty than to punish adults at the criminal bar (Applause). He sincerely hoped that this spread of education—this attempt to reform the young and to teach the man—would receive every support which such a noble object deserved, as by such means only could the bonds of society

be drawn closer together (Applause). If these benevolent purposes were carried out, the Judges of Assize and Sheriffs would then have less onerous duties to perform, and the family circle would derive infinite advantage (Applause). The High Sheriff concluded by again thanking the company for the distinguished honour they had done him (Applause). The Chairman then proposed "The Healths of the Magistrates of the County of Chester."

Mr. Manwaring responded. He concluded by proposing "The Health of Mrs. Chapman, the lady of the High Sheriff."

Mrs. Chapman's health was drunk with three times three cheers, and was suitably acknowledged by the High Sheriff.

The Chairman proposed "The Healths of the Magistrates of the County of Lincoln," coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Thorold and Mr. Hutton. Mr. Richard Thorold having responded,

The Chairman gave "The Corporation of Manchester;" which was responded to by Sir Elkanah Armitage, of Manchester.

The Chairman said that, on this occasion, not only was the Corporation of Manchester represented, but the Corporation of Sheffield, and he begged to propose "The Health of the Mayor of Sheffield." The toast having been duly honoured, Mr. Fisher, Mayor of Sheffield, responded.

The Chairman next proposed "The Corporation of Grimsby," which was also represented by the Mayor of that borough.

Mr. Robert Keetley, Mayor of Grimsby, in acknowledging the toast, said that the High Sheriff, Mr. Chapman, was certainly not a stranger to the inhabitants of Grimsby, and he had no hesitation in saying that the more they saw of him at Grimsby the more they appreciated his qualities. They trusted that ere long they would be able to pay him a higher compliment than this. (This last observation referred to an invitation recently given to Mr. Chapman to become a candidate for representation of Grimsby, and was received by the company with loud cheering.)

The "health of the Chairman," proposed by the High Sheriff, was then drunk; and the proceedings of the Banquet terminated. A procession on foot was then formed to escort the High Sheriff to the train, which was waiting at the station to convey him to Chester; and he took his departure about a quarter-past two o'clock amid the vociferous cheering of the assembled multitude. The special train, propelled by the "Chaperon" engine, arrived at Chester at four.

Next day the High Sheriff met the Judges (Crompton and Vaughan Williams), in accordance with the ancient custom, on the confines of the county. The Sheriff's private carriage and four horses was accompanied by the javelin-men and trumpeters. The "javelin-men" are vestiges of the past of considerable interest. Tradition attributes the origin of those of Chester to very remote times—some persons receiving them as the remains of the 23rd Legion, which occupied Castra (now Chester) in the year 46 B.C. The subjoined illustration exhibits one of these veterans.

Mr. Chapman is a magistrate for the three counties of Lincoln, Chester, and Derby; and is Chairman of the local Sessions. He is also Deputy-chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company; and, since 1836, has had the largest share in the construction of that system of 200 miles of railway, and of the docks at Grimsby, upon which nearly £1,000,000 has been expended. Mr. Chapman was born at the residence of his father, near Mottram, in 1815; and married his cousin, Miss Sidebotham, in 1836. He inherited the properties possessed by his uncle and father, and is a man of very great wealth. Mr. Chapman is a true patron of the Fine Arts: in his collection at Hill-end, Mottram, are to be found Wilkie's "Rent Day;" C. Landseer's first picture, "The Faithful Sentinel;" and the well-known piece of Landseer "Waiting for the Countess." He possesses, also, some of the choicest cabinet pictures of Turner, Mulready, Maclise, Webster, Pyne, and Linley. Two of his pictures were exhibited in the Dublin Exhibition, and he is about to contribute to the magnificent collection to be brought together in Paris. Mr. Chapman possesses great local influence in the manufacturing districts, and is universally esteemed. Hitherto his life has been spent in promoting popular education and local reforms rather than in party politics. He has been invited to stand for Grimsby, and will doubtless be elected, as one of those thorough men of business who are now so much wanted in the Legislature.

THE EMPEROR'S VISIT.—Preparations are being made at Windsor for the reception of the Emperor and Empress of the French. The apartments now under the process of decoration, and on which no less than forty gilders, besides upholsters, are employed, are the Ball or grand Reception-rooms, the Throne-room, the Rubens-room (where the theatrical entertainments have usually taken place), the King's Council-chamber, the King's closet, the Queen's closet, the Zuccarelli-room, the Vandyke-room, and, indeed, all the apartments on the North-terrace. That the whole suite will be finished in a style of unprecedented magnificence cannot be doubted. It is understood that the Emperor and Empress of the French will remain in England for about a fortnight, visiting London, Osborne, Woolwich, Portsmouth, Greenwich, and other places, but residing principally at Windsor Castle.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.—A return just published gives an account of all additions made to the annual charge of the public debt by the interest of any loan or annuities created during the last ten years. It hence appears that in 1847 an annual charge was entailed of £270,837, in respect of £8,000,000 borrowed for the service of the year (at the rate of £89 10s., to £100 capital stock); in 1848, a total charge of £89,339, in respect of a capital of £2,228,434, created in Three per Cent Consols; in 1853, a charge of £11,807, in respect of a capital of £383,098 created in the Three per Cent Reduced; and one of £27,017, in respect of a capital of £891,662 in the Three per Cent Consols; and, lastly, a charge of £11,244 in respect of £408,900 Exchequer-bonds created in exchange for Exchequer-bills, in 1853. All these annual charges are authorised to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund.



CHESHIRE JAVELIN-MAN, SKETCHED FROM THE SHERIFF'S PROCESSION.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, April 8.—Easter Sunday.
MONDAY, 9.—Easter Monday. Lord Bacon died, 1626.
TUESDAY, 10.—Catholic Emancipation Bill passed, 1829.
WEDNESDAY, 11.—Canning born, 1770. Napoleon abdicated, 1814.
THURSDAY, 12.—America discovered, 1492.
FRIDAY, 13.—Handel died, 1759. Vaccination introduced, 1796.
SATURDAY, 14.—Bishop Porteus died, 1809.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 27	4 46	6 10	6 38	7 5	7 40	8 24
9 17	10 5	10 52	11 34	Tide	0	6 10 36

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AND

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1855.

It is understood that on the re-assembling of Parliament certain determined and practical members of the House of Commons intend to take a decided course on the subject of the Sebastopol Committee. There are reasons for supposing that in influential quarters an effort will be made to render the inquiry nugatory, by protracting it until so late that the report would be almost impossible, if made, and nearly harmless. This departmental device will probably be met by a demand that the evidence, so far as it has gone, shall be laid before the House, and in some way it will be endeavoured to obtain an expression of opinion. Unless the investigation is to be a mockery, some step of this kind is essential; for although much evidence has been given to the world, and the people have pronounced their sentence, they have a right to insist upon a formal registry of sentence by their representatives. This fight will, in all probability, have to be fought and won; and then we trust that a few nights may be allotted to the social and domestic affairs of the nation.

[The Educational question will come up in various forms, and one would hope, almost against hope, that some nucleus of a scheme for National Education might be framed out of the different projects before the House. Sir John Pakington has a plan, the Lord Advocate has a plan, Mr. Milner Gibson has a plan, and Lord John Russell has a plan. The High Church party are likely to set themselves against the first, on the ground that it is a compromise of principle, and that it tends to diminish the influence of the parochial clergy; the Scottish clergy will probably deem the Lord Advocate's scheme objectionable in many respects; the moderate religious party will most likely think Mr. Gibson's plan too secular; Lord John Russell's has been pretty well considered, and has not obtained much favour; and the Dissenting interest alleges that none but "voluntary" effort is required for the instruction of the people. There is so evident a clash of principles, all containing one view of truth, in the strife which has always attended the introduction of any such measure, that it is hard to believe that the disputants can be reconciled. Yet, is it not a stern and cruel fact that thousands of children are annually sinking on their murky way to the hulks, the galls, and the convict-ships, simply because they are untaught? Fearful responsibility in this respect lies upon the heads of all who have influence upon legislation. This is not one of the questions that will ever be carried by popular outcry. Senators need not wait to see indignant assemblies carry fiery resolutions in favour of the primer and the copy-book. No banners will ever bear the menace, "Schoolmasters, or —!" The presence of a conviction among the people that they need teaching would be a release to Parliament of any trouble on the subject, for they would take the matter into their own hands. But it is the duty of the educated and influential classes to show the need, and to provide the remedy, despite the absence of the pressure from without, and despite the probable unfruitfulness of the effort as a means of attaining popularity. We admit that this is asking no trifling matter; but there is a growing sense of earnestness abroad which forbids men to deny that wealth, power, and influence are attended by a responsibility not to be trifled with—one of which mere private merit, charity, and liberality do not acquit the owner, but one which must be discharged on the broad principle of social duty.

We shall have, too, some religious battles of another kind. The Maynooth Report has at length appeared. It is what every one expected who knew the materials for it, and those who had to work them. On the whole, it is a report favourable to the institution. The Commissioners have been unable, they say, to find that either immorality or dissipation have been the results of the Maynooth system. It would have been singular, indeed, had the charges of the assailants of Maynooth been substantiated by the method which was selected for their establishment. Yet it is admitted that that faultiness is contained in some of the educational works used in the seminary, and those who were influenced by the course of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in 1850-51 will not easily resign their belief that the Protestant Sovereign of England is a very secondary personage in the eyes of Maynooth acolytes. The question is just where it was, except that the report will be triumphantly appealed to by the Roman Catholic members in proof that the most rigid investigation could elicit nothing against the

establishment in question. This will be a mere dialectic advantage, as nobody will be in the slightest degree convinced by the record of an unsatisfactory attempt to deal with what was intangible by the means employed.

Protestant and Catholic teaching having been discussed, some law reforms will be taken in hand; and even earlier than these, and before the Budget itself, the sanitary measures of Sir Benjamin Hall will come under the notice of the House. The latter bills will—to judge from certain local agitation—be resisted on the old cry of centralisation and arbitrary power. Every man's house is his castle—and every man's cesspool is his castle moat. The liberty of poisoning your neighbour is a precious relic of our Constitution, and a bequest from our gallant sires who accomplished the Revolution. The appointing responsible men to suggest, and even to compel, the removal of nuisances is a most tyrannical thing; and "Patrioticus Furens," "Nolo leges mutare," "A Magna Chartist," "A Free Briton," and all the other blockheads who ably represent the dogged ignorance and self-will of the country, are already spasmodically shedding their ink in defence of the pest-heap and the stagnant pool—*pro aris et focis*, as they would themselves say. The abject terror into which thousands were cast by the cholera has subsided. A few months ago these bills would have been passed amid grateful acclamation; but the owners of nuisances have regained their courage, and clamour for their vested dirt. They declare that the authorities, as at present constituted, have power enough for sanitary purposes, and they will see no force in the argument that such power has never been exercised, and that those who ought to exercise it deny its existence. The dirt party is very strong in England, and in the House, and Sir Benjamin Hall's measures are by no means safe. We only ask the practical men in the House to consider the question in a large point of view, and not with reference to the representations of knots of interested parties.

As regards law reforms, we see measures which are of evident and hopeful promise; and, as for the time, the Legislature seems to think that punishment will do, almost as well as education, for the repression of crime, we may at least ask that the penal machinery thus logically elevated into the place of education should be made as efficient as possible. The abuses of the present system of dealing with petty offenders (the thief, for instance, who steals a halfpennyworth of milk being put upon trial, and costing the country £5) would be ludicrous, were the subject one for light treatment. Something may be done with this system; and a bit-by-bit reform of the Ecclesiastical tribunals is in hand—the probate of wills being about to be handed over to a new Chancery department.

These topics, and a few cognate ones likely to be raised, may, it is respectfully hoped, occupy a portion at least of our representatives on the "off nights," when the great military "spectacles" are not given. In those brief intervals, *cedant arma togæ*.

Soon after the reassembling of Parliament, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to provide the ways and means of the year, and it will be useful if we place before our readers an account of our resources at present. From the Revenue tables recently published, it appears that the national income ending for the year ending March 31st was £59,496,154, and the national expenditure for the same period appears to have been £62,991,769; showing a deficiency of £3,495,615. To meet the immediate deficiency, an equal sum will be at once borrowed of the Bank of England, to be repaid out of the revenue as it accrues. The £59,496,154 is £6,312,624 more than the revenue to the end of March, 1854; but this sum does not show the whole amount of the revenue expected in the year. A part only of the increase of taxation imposed in 1854 has yet been collected—about £3,000,000 out of £6,600,000; and therefore about £3,600,000—a sum nearly equal to the deficiency—may yet be looked for. If the late Chancellor of the Exchequer's expectations be answered, the whole of the expense of last year will be fully provided for, and the present Chancellor will have only to provide for the expense of 1855-6, with no arrears of his predecessors to pay off. We believe that this anticipation is very nearly if not strictly in accordance with facts; and it does credit to the late Chancellor that he has provided for all the expense of the first year of war. We can add, too—as Mr. Gladstone reduced as well as augmented the debt in his administration—that, taking into consideration the balances in the Exchequer and the funded and unfunded debt, the total of the National Debt was upwards of £1,400,000 less at the commencement of 1855 than at the commencement of 1853. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer has a fair field before him.

All the Estimates for 1855 are not yet voted, but we may be quite sure that the demand on the national resources will not be less than last year, or, at least, £64,000,000. It will most probably be considerably above this sum—perhaps five or six millions. The additions made in 1854 to the Income and Property tax, and to the duties on malt, spirits, and sugar, were calculated to raise the revenue permanently up to £63,000,000; and there is no reason to suppose, as the country continues generally prosperous, that it will fall short of this sum in the present year. As much as the expenditure may be greater than this sum the Chancellor will have to provide. We do not mean to forestall, in any manner, his probable Budget, nor to recommend one plan of finance as preferable to another in the present condition of the country. We content ourselves with making our readers aware of the facts that nearly all the expense of last year has been provided for by the taxes then ordained; and that the expense of the present year is not likely to surpass by a very great sum the expense of last year. We must, however, press on them, and on the public generally, the propriety of saving in every other branch of the national expenditure, in order to apply all our resources in bringing the war to a successful and speedy conclusion. It is almost necessary for the future welfare of the Government, and the future peace of society, that the national feelings which have been roused on the question of the war into greater intensity than on any previous occasion within our recollection, and which have already been severely lacerated, should not be wholly disappointed and affronted.

As some little alarm has been occasioned by the publication of the Board of Trade tables, for the month of February, by our morning contemporaries, with some injudicious comments implying a decline

in the national business and prosperity, we must remind our readers that a severe frost prevailed throughout the month; while in February, 1854—with which the trade in February, 1855, is compared—the weather was open and the rivers clear of ice. That this is the chief cause of the great falling off in our trade in February is evident from the fact that the coasting trade was more affected than the over-sea trade, the frost having blocked up many harbours, while it left the ocean open and free.

THE REVENUE.

An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of the United Kingdom, in the Year and Quarter ended 31st March, 1855—showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	Year ended 31st March 1855.		Quarter ended 31st March 1855.		Year ended March 31, 1855.		Quarter ended Mar. 31, 1855.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	20,496,658	4,424,151	295,725	..	221,000	..	..	..
Excise	16,179,169	2,384,416	1,077,578	..	211,284	..	..	..
Stamps	6,965,516	1,677,771	176,131	..	54,944	..	..	..
Taxes	3,036,136	194,897	..	105,558	95,595	..	..	..
Property-tax ..	10,515,369	5,749,708	5,137,334	..	3,798,622	..	..	..
Post-office ..	1,299,156	292,222	230,156	..	45,922	..	..	..
Crown Lands ..	272,572	66,000	..	123,316	1,000	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	731,578	240,411	..	375,426	..	..	..	..
Total	59,496,154	15,021,276	6,916,924	604,300	4,428,417	44,109	..	..
			£6,312,624	..	£4,384,308	..	..	..
			Increase on Year.	..	Increase on Quarter.	..	..	..

THE COURT.

The Queen and Prince Albert left Buckingham Palace at five minutes past three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon for Windsor Castle. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness were accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louisa, Prince Leopold, and the Prince of Leiningen. The Royal party occupied seven carriages, and was escorted by a detachment of Carabineers to the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert, with the Royal Family, and his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, arrived at the Castle soon after four o'clock from London.

On Saturday morning the Queen and the Prince, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge and the Prince of Leiningen, visited the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. In the afternoon her Majesty presided at a Privy Council held at Buckingham Palace. The Earl of Harrowby had an audience of the Queen, and was sworn in Chancellor of the Duchy and County Palatine of Lancaster, of which office the Earl Granville had an audience to resign the seals. Her Majesty in Council was pleased to appoint the Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie, Vice-President of the Committee of Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations. The Right Hon. Dudley Earl of Harrowby and the Hon. Edward Pleydell Bouverie were, by command of the Queen, sworn of her Majesty's Most Hon. Privy Council. In the evening her Majesty had a dinner party, the company at which included the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince of Leiningen, the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, &c.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, and the Prince of Leiningen, attended Divine service in the private chapel in Buckingham Palace. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated.

On Monday the Prince Consort went to Farnborough, and from thence proceeded to Aldershot, to inspect the works in progress for the accommodation of the troops. Viscount Hardinge accompanied the Prince to Aldershot. The Prince and Princess Augustus of Saxe Coburg arrived at Buckingham Palace on a visit to the Queen. In the course of the day, by command of her Majesty, fifty men of the Brigade of Guards on service in the Crimea, invalided during the different military operations, attended at Buckingham Palace, and were inspected by the Queen and the Prince in the Grand Hall. Twenty of the invalids were Grenadiers, fifteen were of the Coldstreams, and fifteen were of the Scots Fusilier Regiment. Her Majesty was attended during the inspection by Colonel Wood and Surgeon-Major Brown, of the Grenadiers; Colonel Upton and Surgeon-Major Munro, of the Coldstream Guards; and Colonel Ridley and Surgeon-Major Richardson, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who explained to the Queen the nature of the different wounds, the actions in which they were received, and the state of the health of the men.

On Tuesday the Queen, attended by the Duchess of Atholl, Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Seymour, visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester-house. In the evening her Majesty had a dinner party.

On Wednesday, previously to the departure of the Court for Windsor, Prince Albert went to the Wellington Barracks, for the purpose of inspecting the draughts of the three regiments of Guards under orders for immediate embarkation to the Crimea. The Prince remained nearly an hour in the barracks. The troops were then marched to Buckingham Palace, and were formed in the grand quadrangle, where they marched past the Queen, who was accompanied by the elder Royal Family and the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince and Prince Augustus of Saxe Coburg, the Prince of Leiningen, and Prince Ernest of Leiningen.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, attended by Lady Anna Maria Dawson, Lady Fanny Howard, Baroness de Speth, and Sir George Couper, left her residence, Clarence-house, St. James's, for Frogmore, on Wednesday. Lady Anna Maria Dawson has succeeded Lady Fanny Howard as the Lady in Waiting to the Duchess of Kent.

His Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Leiningen left Clarence-house, St. James's, on Wednesday afternoon, for Portsmouth. The marriage of the Earl of Lichfield with the Lady Harriet Hamilton, eldest daughter of the Marquis of Abercorn, will take place during the present month, at Brocket-hall, Hert.

The Earl of Cardigan arrived in Portman-square on Monday from visiting the Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire. Viscount and Viscountess Sydney have left London for Paris on a visit to their Excellencies Lord and Lady Cowley.

THE NEW IRISH PEER.—Mr. Edmund Burke Roche, late member for the county of Cork, which he has represented for nearly twenty years, has been raised to the Irish Peerage by the title of Baron Fermoy. Three Irish Peerages having recently become extinct, Lord Palmerston has had the power of recommending to the Crown the creating of a new one, and has done so in favour of a gentleman whose private character, public conduct, and ample means are a guarantee that he will sustain the dignity in every way most fittingly.

THE ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gladstone), by an arrangement with his successor in office, Sir George C. Lewis, will not vacate the official residence attached to his late appointment, in Downing-street, until shortly after Easter, when the new Chancellor and Lady Theresa Lewis and family will remove from Kent House, Knightsbridge, and Mr. Gladstone and establishment will remove *pro tem.* to the Dowager Lady Weymouth's, in Berkeley-square.

HER Majesty the Queen of Spain has just been pleased to confer the honour of the Grand Cross of the Order of Charles III. upon Don Rafael Benjumea, as a further proof of her Majesty's high opinion of his works in painting.

THE NEW BELGIUM MINISTRY.—After a struggle of many years the Ultramontane party in Belgium have contrived to force a Ministry after their own heart upon their King and country. The King took a most friendly leave of the late Liberal Ministers on the 30th ult. All the members of the new Cabinet, with the exception of M. Mercier, are new to the duties of government.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.—A deputation of Yorkshire newspaper proprietors from Leeds had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday at his official residence in Downing-street, for the purpose of laying before him their unanimous views in favour of a halfpenny stamp on newspapers, to free the post, and of a halfpenny stamped cover to entitle unstamped copies of registered newspapers to a single transmission through the post.

GLoucester Election.—Mr. Price, who resigned his seat for Gloucester in consequence of his connection with the Government, contracts for wooden huts for the Crimea, was re-elected on Saturday without opposition. Mr. Foster and Sir Charles Pomeroy Leveson, who were expected to appear, a bill of indemnity respecting Mr. Price has been passed, which operates an difficulty as to the re-election of his seat.

MEDICAL CONCERNS.—Mr. Price, who has been ordered her physician, Messrs. Hill and Jones, of Jewry-street, to forward to Lady de Redcliffe, for the use of the hospitals in the Black Sea, a number of cases of their best biscuits, with other medical comforts, as jams, jellies, raspberry vinegar, lemon and other syrups.

ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.—About sixty cases of Assyrian antiquities, from the excavations of Mr. Layard, Mr. Rassam, and Mr. Loftus, have arrived at the British Museum.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
Mar. 30	30.439	49.0	30.1	38.5	— 4.8	75	N.	0.00
" 31	30.407	49.5	30.0	38.7	— 4.7	70	N.N.E.	0.00
Apr. 1	30.246	48.3	26.2	34.8	— 8.8	92	N.E.	0.00
" 2	30.161	49.3	24.6	33.0	— 10.7	95	E.	0.00
" 3	29.730	52.5	30.1	40.1	— 3.8	90	S.E.	0.03
" 4	29.650	56.0	37.9	43.0	— 1.0	89	N.E.	0.00
" 5	30.031	56.6	25.7	39.6	— 4.6	83	W.	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 30.44 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.68 inches by the afternoon of the 3rd; and increased to 30.03 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.891 inches.

The mean daily temperature of April 1 was 34.8°, and is the lowest recorded since the year 1838, when the mean temperature was 33°, and that of the 2nd was 33°, and is the lowest since 1839, when it was 32.4°. The mean daily temperatures have now been below their averages on every day from March 21, the mean defect being 6.3° daily.

The mean temperature of the week was 38.2°, being 5½° below the average of the corresponding week during thirty-eight years.

The range of temperature during the week was 30.4°.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 22.4°.

Rain fell slightly on the 3rd, to the depth of three-hundredths of an inch.

The weather has been fine and cold throughout the week.

For the month of March the mean reading of the barometer at the level of the sea was 29.726 inches. The highest temperature during the month was 58.2° on the 20th; and the lowest 22°, on the 11th; the range of temperature during the month was therefore 36.2°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 47°, and of all the lowest by night was 31°; the mean daily range of temperature during the month was therefore 16°. The mean temperature of the month was 38°, being 3.4° below the average of the corresponding month during thirty-eight years. The mean temperature of evaporation for the month was 36.6°. The mean temperature of the dew point was 34½°. The mean degree of humidity was 88 (complete saturation being represented by 100); and the fall of rain for the month was 1½ inch.

Lewisham, April 6, 1855. JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending March 31 the births of the unusually large number of 2099 children were registered within the metropolitan districts. In the thirteenth week of the year, the averages from ten years ending 1854 were, 809 boys and 779 girls. The number of deaths registered was 1604; but these did not all occur within the week, but include 139 spread over the quarter, and in which coroners have held inquests; and death has chiefly been caused by fractures, wounds, burns, suffocation, &c. Under the head sudden, no less than 74 deaths are classed; which is a number much greater than usual. The estimated number of deaths for the thirteenth week from ten years' register, is 1367, so that fully 200 persons died last week above the usual number, in consequence, apparently, of the coldness of the season.

The Bank of England reduced the rate of discount ½ per cent. on Thursday.

LONDON REFORMATORY FOR ADULT MALE CRIMINALS.—A public meeting was held on the 20th ult. at Willis's Rooms, in aid of the funds of this excellent reformatory, established in Great Smith-street, near Westminster Abbey. The chair was taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury; and the claims of the institution, now on the verge of bankruptcy, money being wanted to meet present emergencies—the emigration of thirty of its inmates, and to cover outstanding bills—were advocated by the noble chairman, Mr. Sergeant Adams, Mr. Ball, M.P., and other gentlemen; and a resolution was passed pledging the meeting to respond to the call made upon its liberality. The Rev. H. Alford, B.D., pleaded the cause of the institution at Quebec Chapel, Portman-street, on Sunday, the 18th, when the collection amounted to £237. The reverend gentleman has liberally given the MSS. of his sermon to Mr. E. Nash, the governor of the reformatory, who purposes having it printed by the inmates in behalf of the institution.

THE GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.—The annual dinner in aid of this fund took place on Monday at the London Tavern, and was, as usual, very well attended. About 170 gentlemen assembled on the occasion, and there was a large muster of ladies, who, without partaking in the actual festivities, graced the hall with their presence. Mr. Buckstone occupied the chair, and, by a succession of humorous speeches, contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening. He was supported by Mr. Charles Dickens, Lord Ernest Bruce, Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. Ball, Mr. Webster, and others connected more or less directly with the interests of the drama. No specific statements were made as to the benefits conferred by the fund during the past year; but from what was said it appears to be in a prosperous, healthy condition, and subscriptions were announced during the evening amounting in the aggregate to more than £300. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. Lovell Phillips, were excellent, Miss Jenny Bauer, Miss Ransford, Madame Newton Frodsham, Mr. Donald King, Mr. Weiss, Mr. G. Genge, and other vocalists contributing their talents.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The fifth annual meeting of this society, whose object is to investigate the origin and conditions of epidemic diseases, was held on Monday evening, in the Council-room of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, No. 37, Soho-square. Dr. Babington presided, and about twenty gentlemen were present. The council presented their annual report, stating that there are now 100 resident and 27 non-resident members, 78 corresponding members, and 6 honorary members; total, 211 members. The council had made an application to the Treasury, through Lord Palmerston, for some assistance, but it was not thought expedient to grant any; and they had resolved, therefore, to appeal to the profession and the public for support, by means of the circulation of a brief statement of the useful objects of the society. After the council's report, a paper was read by Dr. F. J. Brown, "On the prevalence of typhoid fever, and the absence of typhus fever at Rochester and Strood;" and another by Dr. W. Champs, "On the occurrence of fever at Cowbridge, between Bridge-end and Cardiff; and at Sible Hedingham, in Essex." After some conversation, the scrutineers announced the election of the president and council for the ensuing year, and the business terminated.

SHIPWRECKED MARINERS' SOCIETY.—The committee of the above excellent institution has awarded its gold medal to Captain Edward Henry Salmond, and its silver medal to T. and W. Hunt, brothers, for their gallant and daring efforts in saving the lives and many of the crew and passengers of the *Charlotte*, having on board a detachment of her Majesty's troops, wrecked at Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay. Also the gold medal to Captain Wm. Holland Warren, of the Holyhead mail steam-packet *Anglia*, who, on the occasion of that vessel carrying away her tiller, close in with the rock, blowing hard with a heavy sea, by his cool bravery and seamanlike conduct, in most perilous circumstances, was the means of saving the vessel and the lives of all on board. Also the silver medal to Captain John Robinson, of the *Antioch*, for saving the lives of the crew of the *Bure*, by bearing down under her lee, and taking them off the sinking vessel in a sea in which a boat could not live.

SIR R. PEEL AT THE MARYLEBONE LITERARY INSTITUTION.—On Wednesday evening Sir Robert Peel, Bart., delivered to a numerous and highly respectable audience, at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, a lecture entitled "An Evening with the Poets," being notices of some of the most eminent English poets, interspersed with recitations of beautiful or powerful passages from their writings. These recitations were marked by great correctness of delivery and justness of expression; and they were heartily and unanimously applauded by the audience. The lecturer went through the series of English poets, reciting several choice extracts. A denunciation of Russia, and a declaration that the time had arrived when we must avenge the crimes committed by the late and previous Czars and by the Empress Catherine (which elicited much applause, but provoked a few hisses), introduced the remark that, in the eloquent lines of Campbell upon the partition of Poland (which were recited), was embodied a spirit which now animated the people of England. The lecture was frequently and heartily applauded; and, at its conclusion, thanks were by acclamation voted to Sir Robert Peel for his kindness in delivering it. The funds realised by its delivery are to be applied for the benefit of the institution.

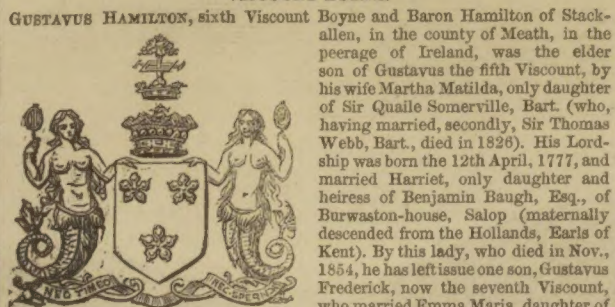
On Saturday evening the fortieth anniversary festival of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided. There was a subscription in the room of £611.

At the City Court of Sewers, on Tuesday, two of the gas companies with which the commission have contracts for supplying the public streets with lights were fined £3 each for neglect.

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS AND PREFERENCE.—*Rectories:* The Rev. W. J. Stracey to Skeytton and Oxnead, with the vicarage of Buxton; Rev. H. Gough to Enham Knights, near Andover. *Vicarages:* The Rev. E. Brown to Addingham, near Penrith; Rev. J. Russell to Kempford, Gloucestershire. *Incumbencies:* The Rev. W. Hutchinson to Armen, near Goole; Rev. W. J. Shield to North Moor-green.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

VISCOUNT BOYNE.



GUSTAVUS HAMILTON, sixth Viscount Boyne and Baron Hamilton of Stackallen, in the county of Meath, in the peerage of Ireland, was the elder son of Gustavus the fifth Viscount, by his wife Martha Matilda, only daughter of Sir Quail Somerville, Bart. (who, having married, secondly, Sir Thomas Webb, Bart., died in 1826). His Lordship was born the 12th April, 1777, and married Harriet, only daughter and heiress of Benjamin Baugh, Esq., of Burwaston-house, Salop (maternally descended from the Hollands, Earls of Kent). By this lady, who died in Nov., 1854, he has left issue one son, Gustavus Frederick, now the seventh Viscount, who married Emma Maria, daughter of Matthew Russell, Esq., M.P., of Brancepeth Castle, in the county of Durham, and heiress of that estate on the death of her brother, in 1850, when her husband assumed, by Royal licence, the name of Russell, in addition to that of Hamilton. By this lady, now Viscountess Boyne, the seventh Viscount has an only son.

The house of Hamilton, Viscounts Boyne, descends from Lord Claude Hamilton, third son of the Regent of Scotland, James Earl of Arran, who was created Baron of Paisley in 1535. The first Viscount Boyne greatly distinguished himself as a military officer of William III., especially at the battle of the Boyne, the storming of Athlone, and the siege of Londonderry. For the service of the King, his master, he raised six regiments, two of which (infantry and cavalry) are now known as the Inniskillings. He was elevated to the peerage in 1717.

Gustavus, sixth Viscount Boyne, the subject of this notice, entered the British army at an early age: he saw and shared in active service in Flanders in the war between France and England; and he was afterwards for several years a *détaché* at Verdun. He succeeded to the peerage on the death of his father in 1816. His Lordship died at his town residence on the 30th ultimo.

JOHN SIMS WEIR, ESQ.

This gentleman died on the 21st February, in his forty-third year. Being the eldest son of the late John Weir, Esq., and Mary Sims, his wife, he was of the ancient family of Weir, otherwise, Vere, of Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland; the estates of which passed into the female line on the marriage of Catherine, only child of Sir William Weir, Bart., with the Hon. Charles Hope, second son of Charles, first Earl of Hopetoun. Mr. Weir having died unmarried, the representation of the family devolves upon his younger brother, Charles Sims Weir, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, and barrister-at-law of Lincoln's Inn.

GRIFFITH DAVIES, F.R.S.

This gentleman, who was one of the most eminent actuaries in London, died on Wednesday week, at the age of 67. A Correspondent of the *Times* has communicated to that journal the following account of Mr. Davies' career, which affords a remarkable example of the results of integrity and perseverance.—Griffith Davies was born in 1788, at the foot of Gligwyn mountain, Carnarvon. His father held a small farm, and devoted his spare time to work in the neighbouring slate quarries. Mr. Davies was also brought up to a quarryman, and worked as such until the age of 20. He was about 17 years old before he learnt even the numeration table; but as soon as he had a little insight into the properties of numbers—which he managed to get by placing himself at school for a short time at Carnarvon, by his own savings—he would be seen during a portion of the meal-times allowed him at the quarry, practising himself in arithmetical operations with an iron pencil on the slates which he had to manufacture. He arrived in London in 1809, without a single acquaintance in the place, and with a very imperfect knowledge of the English language. He first sought a situation as a porter or messenger; and, being unsuccessful, placed himself for a short time in a school, where he became usher, and in the following year he opened a school on his own account. In 1814 he published his "Key to Bonycastle's Trigonometry;" and in 1822 he was appointed consulting actuary to the Guardian Assurance Company; and soon after was appointed actuary to the Reversionary Interest Society. In 1823 he became the regular actuary to the Guardian, and published his tract on "Life Contingencies," containing his rate of mortality, deduced from the experience of the Equitable Society, and the improved columnar method in 1825. From about 1829 to 1852 he was extensively engaged, sometimes at the instance of the East India Company, in investigations respecting the present state and future prospects of the military, medical, and civil funds established in India, and occasionally for the Bank of England and other societies in this country. In the course of his career he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, of the Statistical Society of France, and of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and Ireland.

R. C. CARPENTER, ESQ.

THE architectural world has lately sustained a severe loss in the demise, at the age of forty-three, of Mr. R. C. Carpenter, one of the most eminent of the school of architects who have made the revival of Gothic architecture, especially for religious objects, their particular study. Mr. Carpenter's death took place on Tuesday, the 27th ult.; and on Monday last his remains were consigned to their long home in Highgate Cemetery; the service having been performed by the Rev. N. Woodward, Provost of St. Nicholas College, Shoreham, assisted by the Rev. B. Webb, Secretary of the Entomological Society. Besides the family of the lamented deceased, the ceremony was attended by the Rev. E. Stewart, Mr. A. J. B. Beresford Hope, the Rev. W. Wheeler, and a few other personal friends of Mr. Carpenter. His works, too numerous to notice in their completeness, and all of them distinguished by some peculiar trait of grace and originality, were executed under the disadvantage of delicate health. The principal of them, the College of St. John, Hurstpierpoint, founded by Mr. Woodward for the education of the middle classes, has already been engraved in our pages. The Churches of St. Mary Magdalen, Munster-square; St. Paul's and All Saints, Brighton; St. Peter's, Chichester, &c., attest his original powers; while his ability in the delicate work of church restoration is attested by the magnificent pile of Sherborne Minster, the old parish church at Brighton, &c. Mr. Carpenter's latest drawing, completed immediately before his decease, was a beautiful design for the west end of the proposed cathedral at Inverness, which has been sent to the Paris Great Exhibition. His taste and judgment in directing and designing painted glass and metal work were most remarkable.

In private life Mr. Carpenter was as amiable as in the concerns of business he was strict and high principled. Altogether his loss—following so soon after the decease of his early friend, A. W. Pugin—is one which the lovers of pointed architecture will long and severely feel. He leaves a widow and two sons to lament his loss. His favourite pupil—Mr. W. Slater—is, we understand, to undertake the completion of the works upon which Mr. Carpenter was engaged.

WILLS AND PERSONALTY.—The Right Hon. Mary Ann Viscountess St. Vincent: personality, £16,000. The Hon. Thomas William Gage, £14,000. The Venerable Archdeacon Pope, Archdeacon of Jamaica, who died at Brompton; has left £30,000 personality in this country. John Vivian, Esq., St. Clement's, Cornwall, £25,000. James Hill, Esq., silk manufacturer, £60,000. James Kinnoch Clement, Esq., Leytonstone, £60,000. John Southgate, packer, of Old-chance, who lately died from the effects of poison, had made his will in December last: personality, £8000 (which is exclusive of any deductions). The will of Captain Lewis Edward Nolan, 15th Hussars, at Balaklava, has just been proved in London, and bears date June, 1854, on board H.M. steam-ship *Trent*.

THE REPORTED DEATH OF DR. BARTH.—A letter, dated March 13, from Colonel Herman, her Majesty's Consul at Tripoli, has reached Malta. It says:—"You will, I am confident, be delighted to hear that the rumour of Dr. Barth's death was unfounded. A letter from him, dated Kana, 15th November last, reached me yesterday. He then calculated on arriving at Moorouk within three months, but which, as he purposed moving by the circuitous route of Kooka, he never would accomplish. The rumour of his death was fabricated by the ex-ruler of Bornou, for the purpose of possessing himself of a depot of supplies that had been formed at Zeffhan against the doctor's return, and in which he succeeded. The overthrow of this man was most fortunate, otherwise the fabricated report might have been converted into a stern reality."

MEMORIAL WINDOW.—A memorial window, of stained glass, well executed, has been placed in the east window of the chapel of St. Margaret's Church, in Durham, by the surviving members of the family of the late Mr. F. Humble, who was for many years a resident in that city, and the proprietor and editor of the *Durham County Advertiser*.

UNITED STATES' NAVY.—It is stated that in the past ten years nine sloops of 20 guns each, and four brigs and two schooners of 10 guns each, have, by casualty or decay, been removed from the effective force of the United States' Navy, and yet not a single vessel has been built to replace them.

A STRANGERS' Home for the natives of heathen and Mahomedan lands is being organised in London.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

LITERATURE has just lost a very useful friend, and the publishing interest of Great Britain a back-bone of support, in the death of Mr. James Brown, of New Boston, the English partner of the European house of Messrs. Little and Brown. For the last twenty years Mr. Brown has been in the habit of visiting England for the sole purpose of making extensive purchases of the most eminent publishers. His visits were looked forward to with very great interest by all the successors of Tonson and Murray; and many an English enterprise of note has been entered into on his agreement for a purchase, and would not have been undertaken without such valuable support. He knew the market of books well. He had dealings in old as well as new books, and in a very wholesale character. We have heard (and on excellent authority) that his orders in England alone have varied from £20,000 to £50,000 during the three months in the year that he was among us. Mr. James Brown, of Boston, was very much liked in this country. He had a vein of quiet humour—was generous—was still a Yankee, and was very fond of English society. Now that he is gone, we shall, perhaps, look in vain for a successor to clear off *remainders* in the same spirited and searching manner, for many a work that has been very cheap, and therefore common in the market, has become to the unknowing unaccountably dear by Mr. Brown's purchases for the great American market. Of a man thus eminent, we wish to say still more, and in our own words. We must, however content ourselves with a brief extract from his character as drawn by the American papers:—

Energy, firmness, and promptitude were among his most distinguishing characteristics, and these, united with sterling good sense and a judgment that rarely erred, contributed largely to that success which continually marked his progress in life. In the finer quality of good taste he was not lacking, and the books issued by the house of which he was a member bear ample testimony to the exercise of his nice discrimination in their production. He understood his business well, and was familiar with all its details; and this may be said of him not only in a mechanical but in a much higher sense—for he not only had a knowledge of the market value and fitness of the wares in which he dealt, but also an intellectual appreciation of their worth. He was well read in general literature, and the scholars of America, and those who endeavour to encourage and promote a taste for healthy reading, are greatly indebted to him for the publication and wide distribution of numberless works of real excellence; in which manner he has done a service to our literature and education which it would not be easy to estimate. Mr. Brown was eminently social in his disposition and habits, and fond of the enjoyments of home; he was deeply attached to his family and friends, and warmly beloved by them in return. His cheerful face—often illuminated with a smile which was sunshine itself to the beholder, and which gave an inexpressible charm to his manner—was the index of his heart, which overflowed with generous emotions.

Mr. Brown was in his fifty-fifth year.

A fine and celebrated picture, attributed to Titian—"L'Adultera condotta al Salvatore"—has just been purchased by the Rev. John Holmes, of Brooke-hall, in the county of Norfolk (the Prince Regent is known to have offered 4000 guineas for it). That *chef-d'œuvre* of Rubens, the "Judgment of Paris," now in the National Gallery, was long the companion picture to this well-known example of Italian art. The history of this acquisition at Brooke-hall deserves publicity. It came to this country from the Count Valentini's collection at Ancona. It is in perfect condition. Sir Thomas Lawrence had "not the smallest doubt of its originality, and of its being a very able work by Titian," though others assign it (more correctly, we suspect) to Bonifazio.

Our remarks on Mr. Roach Smith's Museum, and the refusal of it by the Trustees of the British Museum, have brought us several communications thereon. We quote the best:—

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

In your agreeable column entitled "Town and Table Talk on Literature, Art, &c.," I last Saturday noticed your mention of the fact that the Trustees of the British Museum had declined to purchase Mr. Roach Smith's Collection of London Antiquities—a decision which you regret. You, however, put the question—"But did Mr. Smith make any stipulation with the Trustees about maintaining his collection in its integrity? We are among those who think (and the number is increasing) that the Trustees should distinctly refuse to buy even a very choice collection on such terms." In the opinion which you here express I quite agree with you. For the Museum to become a miserly hoard of duplicates and triplicates of articles of interest is to discourage, not advance, science. With reference to your query, the moment I read it I gave it a negative answer; but that I might be quite certain, before communicating with you, that I was right in doing so, I called Mr. Roach Smith's attention to the paragraph. He writes me, "I can tell you—indeed you know—that the collection was offered unconditionally." This question being settled, I would ask another. Has any one of the Trustees of the British Museum seen the collection which they have refused to purchase?

Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

J. C. B.

The place and the initials will indicate "an eminent hand" in the study of Roman antiquities to many readers.

Mrs. Nicol, better known as Miss Brontë, still better known as Currer Bell, but known best of all as the writer of a clever novel entitled "Jane Eyre," died at Haworth, in Yorkshire, on the 31st ult. "Jane Eyre" will outlive many novels in the so-called series of Standard Novels; and will, we suspect, be reprinted as often as any story that has proceeded in our time from a female writer.

Architects are lamenting the too early death of Mr. Carpenter, the architect, whose knowledge of his profession has been shown to great advantage in the recent restoration of Sherborne Church, in Dorsetshire. Sherborne is almost a cathedral in point of size, and is equal to many cathedrals in point of architecture. Mr. Carpenter entered into its design and restored it with great good sense. Mr. Carpenter was for some years the junior partner of Mr. William Brooks, the architect of the London Institution, Dudley Church, Finsbury Chapel, &c.; and, almost better still father of Mr. Shirley Brooks.

Londoners who in this busy season are unable to escape out of Cobbett's "wen" for more than half a day should join the Surrey Archaeological Society, and enjoy the general gathering at Chertsey on the 19th. There are few places within fifty miles of London that can supply rural scenes of greater beauty than Chertsey; and the Museum of Antiquities to be imprompted for the occasion promises well.

PARIS EXHIBITION.—An official return just published gives an account of the demands for space made by the various nations to the Fine Arts Department of the Universal Exhibition, which is not without interest. England demands 860 metres; Belgium, 800; Prussia, 752; the Netherlands, 310; Switzerland, 300; Austria, 210; Hamburg, 133; Sweden, 130; Hesse Darmstadt, 52; Wurtemberg, 23; and Hanover rather less than half-a-metre—45 centimetres only!

THE STAINED GLASS IN WESTMINSTER-HALL.—During the last few days workmen have been employed in removing the stained glass from nine of the lower compartments of the large window at the bottom of Westminster-hall, for the purpose of being transmitted to Paris as a specimen of Birmingham art in the manufacture of stained glass, at the forthcoming Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations. The vacated spaces in the window have been filled up with timber, which, from the body of the hall, has a rather unsightly appearance.

BOOKBINDING FOR THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.—We have just seen, at the establishment of Messrs. Leighton, Son, and Hodge, of Shoe-lane, the specimens of bookbinding which they have prepared for the approaching Paris Exhibition. In addition to some very tasteful and elaborate examples of binding in morocco, silk, papier maché, and other materials, their display is curious, as illustrating the progress of what is called cloth binding for publishers, and which will well sustain the credit of the English bookbinders. Some of our readers who are old enough to remember the time when books were scarce and expensive, and ponderous quartos were issued from the publishers in the same unvarying drab paper cover, with a white paper label on the back for the title, can best appreciate the change which has taken place in noticing the style in which we now receive our new books—bound in handsome coloured cloths, and stamped on the covers with appropriate and artistic devices, giving a foretaste of the contents of the volume. We may remark that the binding of books in cloth in large numbers for publication, is an art quite unknown to our neighbours the French; for, much as they excel in other kinds of binding, their new books are published *now* in the same style of thin paper cover as they were in the days of the first Napoleon. We are informed that the founder of the above firm, the late Mr. Archibald Leighton, was the first to introduce the binding of books in cloth, which is now brought to such excellence.



DIVINE SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNING IN THE CAMP BEFORE BALACLAVA—GUARDS DIVISION.

DIVINE SERVICE IN THE ENGLISH CAMP AT BALACLAVA.

THE interesting scene which our Artist has depicted took place on the 3rd of March. The three regiments present were the Coldstream, the Grenadier, and Fusilier Guards, who formed three sides of a square, the fourth side of which was partly filled up by the party mounting guard for the day, the latter in full uniform, with knapsacks, rolled blankets, and the new yellow boots lately issued to the Guards. A few of the men wore caps; but the general appearance of the troops, as will be seen from the Engraving, shows a very great improvement compared with what it was some weeks ago. For the first time since the battle of Inkerman the Guards are described as having looked smart as they assembled there, under the blue sky, within a few miles of a hostile army, to join in the solemn service of the Church of England. To any person imbued with the slightest share of religious feeling the scene must have been a very impressive one. As the weather was rather cold, the officiating clergyman wore a small black velvet *calotte*, fitting very closely to the head, something like the well-known cap of the late Duke of Sussex.

THE CRIMEAN COMMITTEE.

THE "Departments" may congratulate themselves on having passed a week without any damaging disclosures from that place of torture for timid officials, "Committee-room No. 17." The proceedings in that apartment are, with good reason, dreaded in certain quarters; and Mr. Roebuck and his fellow-inquisitors are denounced as strongly as if the whole thing were a kind of revival of the Star-chamber. If the evidence yet to be taken tells out of doors with as much effect as that of the week before the recess, many proper authorities have every reason to fear the reassembling of the Committee, for some of the worst reports of "those newspapers" have been confirmed, sometimes almost unconsciously, by officials themselves. "The public is gaining a more distinct notion of the working of the machinery of these 'Departments,' which do business in a manner incomprehensible to the comparatively few individuals from the outer world who are brought into direct contact with them. But suppose the Committee works through the Medical department into the Board of Ordnance, and, with the lights there obtained, explores the recesses of the Horse Guards; proceeding thence next door, to the Admiralty—by no means so blameless as Sir J. Graham alleged—what then? That is now the question; and there can be no better time to ask it than this interval of leisure, when one day's exposure or confession of mismanagement is not overlaid by the revelation of greater mismanagement on the next. It is a question that is being asked very generally—What is the result of the Committee to be? Is Mr. Sidney Herbert to prove a prophet; and is the inquiry really to turn out an "immense sham," leaving no trace behind but a Blue Book? In that case we should be inclined to add a single letter to Mr. Herbert's predictive epithets, and call it an "immense shame." But really, at this moment, it is by no means clear that the results expected from the investigation will be obtained. There is a vast distance between exposure and reformation; and abuses have an incredible vitality, especially in England, more especially if they are old; and most especially if there are great numbers, with considerable "influence," interested in maintaining them. We fear all these conditions apply to the abuses from which the Committee has lifted a corner of the veil, and will probably apply to many more yet to be discovered. The public should keep the question, "What is to be done next?" before it, and furnish a practical answer; for we suspect the real work will have to begin where the Committee stops. Heads of departments may be called up one after the other; Mr. Layard may question in his boldest style, and infuse into his queries the most evident astonishment; Mr. Roebuck may guide the inquiry with more legal dexterity, and throw in a few sarcastic "asides," when the evidence is "too bad" even for more phlegmatic temperaments; that evidence may go on with a *crescendo* movement towards exposure of muddle of every kind, ending, perhaps, with a grand illustration of the disasters unwittingly brought about by the ambition of mediocrity—when the Duke of Newcastle is examined; but still Louis Napoleon's favourite question will recur—*et puis?* What then?

It is one not easily answered; the Committee can do nothing more than "report to your Honourable House;" and there is sufficient Government influence in the Committee itself to tone down any very strong condemnation of any body, Board, Department, or authority. But supposing the report passed, reflecting some degree of the feeling out of doors, all action formed on it must come from the Executive, not Parliament, for the days are gone when it could be said—

The House impeach him, "Coningsby" harangues,
The Court forsakes him, and Sir Balaam hangs.

How far will the House of Commons put a pressure on the Executive? The last great effective display of the prosecuting power of the Legislature was when it expelled certain members of its own body, and fined and confiscated pretty freely among the directors of that stupendous fraud, the South Sea Bubble. But very large bubbles have been blown since then, and Parliament has not interfered, except to help to inflate them by its private-bill legislation. It was one thing to vote the inquiry into the state of the army, but it will be quite another thing to act on the evidence collected by it.

Even the evidence condemns a "system" more than it crimines individuals; and a system cannot be prosecuted, indicted, or punished; it can only be changed—the most difficult thing to do of all. No culprit has yet been got at so as to fix him clearly with the responsibility for any failure. Facts enough come out, but individuals escape, as if they had had nothing to do with them. And their plea in extenuation is really a strong one—they have all had to work in fetters; and when they found they could not work well except by breaking them they had not courage enough to do it. They have all been trained to think the infringement of a regulation a kind of sacrilege.

Dr. A. Smith, "taught for forty years to save money and not to spend it," could no more acquire the habit of liberality of outlay when told he was free to disburse than an Indian fakir who has held his hand stretched above his head "for forty years" can bring it down to where the breeches pocket ought to be. Poor Dr. Menzies, bewildered among all kinds of authorities, with little power, and that disputed, obliged to leave hospitals uninspected that his piles of forms and returns might be written out—he, too, falls back on the intangible "system," and asks, "What could I do?" So all the confusion and blunders, ending in inflicting very avoidable suffering at a (now) unavoidable cost, have arisen from an invisible influence, mysterious and impersonal—"a bodiless creation," blighting everywhere, but nowhere to be grasped. Hints have been thrown out in the Committee of possible peculations and embezzlements of stores, and that certain trains of inquiry might be entrusted with advantage to the police; but there is no evidence of it. Where so much evil is so abstract, and nobody's fault, it would be almost gratifying to discover something "concrete" enough to come within the pains and penalties of a statute. The public would fully understand any part of the inquiry that could be transferred from Westminster to the Old Bailey, and would be much more secure of justice being done in the last locality than the first. But we fear the evidence will go no further than it has already; the "system" will excuse all the men who work it; and, unless a strong feeling be manifested by the constituencies throughout the country, a tolerably "strong" report, a division in the House—nearly like that a few nights since on military promotion—and a few weeks' angry talk, will suffice to restore the system to its pristine safety and oblivion, especially if assisted by the peace with which we are threatened from Vienna.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTURE OF THE BALTIC FLEET FROM SPITHEAD.

The bulk of the ships at Spithead, belonging to the Baltic Fleet, sailed on Wednesday afternoon. The weather had moderated to some extent, and the wind had become more favourable than on Tuesday, although it was not fair. The order to sail was, however, given by the Commander-in-Chief, Rear-Admiral Dundas, and the fleet went away in beautiful order. Although they were all steam-ships they left Spithead under canvas alone, but getting to the Nab Light their steam power was brought into requisition by some of the ships. A vast number of persons witnessed the departure of the fleet, although it was concealed, in a measure, by a thick fog. The following are the ships that sailed:

Duke of Wellington	131	Capt. Caldwell, flag	Hogue	60	Capt. W. Ramsay
Royal George	120	Capt. Adair, flag	Alex	60	Capt. Warden
Exmouth	120	Capt. W. K. Hall, flag	Edinburgh	60	Capt. Hewlett
Nile	91	Capt. Mundy	Magicienne	16	Capt. Vansittart
Majestic	81	Capt. Hope	Vulture	6	Capt. Glasco
Cesar	91	Capt. Robb	Dragon	6	Capt. W. H. Stewart
James Watt	91	Capt. G. Elliot	Bulldog	6	Commander Gordon
Colossus	84	Capt. R. S. Robinson	Gorgon	6	Commander Crawford
Cressy	80	Capt. R. L. Warren	Basileisk	6	Commander Jenner

With the exception of the last-named six vessels, which are paddle-wheels, the fleet is composed of screw ships. Before they leave the Downs they will be joined by the *Orion*, 91; *Hastings*, 60; *Pembroke*, 60, from Portsmouth; the *Russell*, 60 (all screw ships), from Chatham; and other vessels from Plymouth, &c. Every one of the ships composing this fleet is in admirable order, with crews fully disciplined and well experienced. With only one or two exceptions, every ship and every crew has been up the Baltic before. One of the Admirals in command, Rear-Admiral Seymour, was Captain of the Fleet in the last Baltic campaign; whilst the present Master of the Fleet, Mr. Richard Stokes, went through that campaign as master of the *Neptune*, 120, sailing ship. The departure of the above-named fleet, together with the ten frigates and sloops composing the "flying squadron," leaves a very respectable force at Spithead, consisting of the—

Neptune	120	sailing ship	Centaur	6	paddle.
St. George	120	ditto.	Cruiser	16	screw.
Orion	91	screw.	Driver	6	ditto.
Calcutta	84	sailing ship	Ariel	9	screw.
Powerful	84	ditto.			
Pythias	21	screw.			

The Baltic fleet will anchor in the Downs and wait orders. Their departure thence depends upon two contingencies—the state of the weather in the Baltic, and the character of the intelligence from Vienna.

It has been decided by the Commissioners of the Chelsea Board, which has been sitting at Chatham, to give a pension of 9d. per day to those who have either lost a finger or otherwise been slightly wounded. No decision has been come to with regard to pensions for those men who are more seriously wounded, having lost either a leg or an arm; the Board, however, has allowed sick furloughs to be given them, so that the men go home to their friends, and they are allowed their daily pay, viz.—a private 18d., a corporal 17d., and a sergeant 23d. per day.

The monthly returns of deserters from the army, the navy, and the militia, made up at the Horse Guards and Admiralty on Saturday last, show a large increase in the number of defaulters; the total being 646. The list of deserters, stragglers, and men discharged with disgrace from the navy is large, there being 74 deserters, 15 stragglers, and one person discharged with disgrace. From her Majesty's ship *Colossus* there are 24 deserters, and from the *Euryalus* 18. From the various regiments of militia there are 276 deserters, 216 of whom belonged to the 1st Surrey Regiment.

The Crimean medals have been issued for distinguished services, and have been dispatched to the army before Sebastopol. They are of silver, with red riband and blue centre. The friends of those deceased will receive them on putting in claims.

The new pattern clothing has been served out to the 1st Dragoon Guards. The frock, or tunic, appears to great advantage upon large-sized men, and, when worn with the helmet, is undoubtedly a vast improvement upon the tailless garment conferred upon the "Heavies" some eight years since, and which is now about to be discarded.

GREAT progress has been made in the erection of the temporary wooden buildings, officers' quarters, stabling, &c., for the Encampment at Aldershot; the concrete roads and footways have been formed, and in a few days the buildings will be handed over by the contractors to the military authorities.

ORDERS have been issued for detachments of the following cavalry and infantry regiments to be held in readiness for immediate embarkation for the seat of war, each cavalry regiment to be reinforced by 160 mounted men, and the infantry by draughts varying from 150 to 250 bayonets:—4th Dragoon Guards, 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales) ditto, 1st Royal Dragoons, 2nd Scots Greys, 4th Light Dragoons, 6th Inniskillings, 8th Royal Irish Hussars, 10th (Prince of Wales) ditto, 11th (Prince Albert's) ditto, 13th Light Dragoons, 15th Hussars, 17th Lancers. The detachments for the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scots Fusilier Guards will not proceed to the seat of war until the middle of next month; but the draughts from the respective depot companies of the following infantry regiments will embark forthwith—viz., 1st Royals (1st battalion), 4th Foot, 7th Royal Fusiliers, 9th Foot, 14th ditto, 17th ditto, 18th Royal Irish, 19th Foot, 20th ditto, 21st Royal North British Fusiliers, 23rd Royal Welsh ditto, 28th Foot, 30th ditto, 33rd (the Duke of Wellington's Own), 34th Foot, 38th ditto, 39th ditto, 41st ditto, 42nd Royal Highlanders, 44th Foot, 46th ditto, 47th ditto, 49th ditto, 50th ditto, 55th ditto, 57th ditto, 62nd ditto, 63rd ditto, 68th Durham Light Infantry, 71st Highland ditto, ditto 2nd battalion, 79th Highlanders, 88th Connaught Rangers, 90th Foot, 93rd Highlanders, 97th Foot, and the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Rifle Brigade. The Land Transport Corps will be augmented by 500 drivers as soon as possible. The strength of the Royal Artillery in the field will be increased by four field batteries and two batteries of light field pieces of the Royal Horse Artillery.

THE great point of attraction in the Thames at the present moment is the construction of the screw batteries for the Baltic. Mr. Scott Russell is building one, Messrs. Green two, and Messrs. Mare and Co. two. Numbers of people visit them daily, or rather watch their progress, for they are crowded with workmen, and there is no room either about the slips or on board the ships for visitors. No efforts have been spared, no expense has been stinted, to get these batteries ready for launching. Night and day gangs of men are employed, and there is no pause to the busy work. It is expected that the five batteries will be launched in the Thames on or before Monday, the 16th instant, when they will be instantly fitted and dispatched for service, under the most active, energetic, and skilful Captains in the Royal Navy.

TWO YEARS' ENLISTMENT.—The *Gazette* of Tuesday night contains an order by the Queen in Council, of which the following is the essential portion:—"Now, therefore, her Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that any person may be enlisted as a soldier, under the provisions of the Act of the 10th and 11th years of her Majesty (cap. 37), for ten years in the infantry, or for twelve years in the cavalry, or artillery, or other ordinance corps, and also that any person between the ages of twenty-four and thirty-five years may, under the provisions of the Act passed in the present Session of Parliament, for three years after the passing thereof, be enlisted as a soldier in her Majesty's infantry forces, or in the infantry forces of the East India Company, for the term of two years, and for such further term, not exceeding one year, as her Majesty may by order in Council direct—the term of service to be reckoned as directed and provided in and by the Act of the 10th and 11th years of the reign of her Majesty for limiting the time of service in the army."

On Tuesday upwards of 2000 Minié and Pritchett rifles, rifled muskets, and carbines, were delivered from the manufacturers at Birmingham into the Ordnance stores at the Tower.

It is intended to establish a depot of seamen, artificers, stokers, &c., for service in the Baltic and White Sea fleets, in Leith-roads, for which purpose, in addition to her Majesty's ship *Atholl*, the guard-ship in the roads, a 50-gun frigate is to be stationed there, to afford accommodation to volunteers.

A LARGE quantity of medical and surgical stores, &c., was shipped from the Tower on Tuesday for conveyance to Smyrna and Scutari. Among the stores are 500 hospital beds, with bedding complete, hip and slipper baths, pails, &c., for the new hospital at Smyrna.

In the thirty-six days just past, thirty-five hired transports, having a measurement of 62,830 tons, have left the port of Southampton, with 12,000 troops, 500 horses, several thousand tons of stores, and 641 wooden houses, sufficient to shelter 20,000 men. At a rate of 50s. per ton per month, the hire of these thirty-five vessels costs the Government £132,075 monthly.

On Saturday last Messrs. Green launched from their establishment at Blackwall two of the screw gun-boats for the Baltic fleet. On the same day Messrs. Wigram launched two of the mortar-vessels for the Baltic, to be fitted with Captain Roberts' sling carriages.

THE CAMP at the CURRAGH OF KILDARE.—It will be beautifully placed on the side of the hill, extending from the walled-in deer-park for more than two miles towards the end of the Curragh, on the Wicklow side. In the rear it will be completely sheltered by the hill itself from the cold northerly winds, while in front its southerly aspect will make it exceedingly warm. The nature of the soil, and the inclination of the ground upon which it is placed, will cause it to be comfortable and dry in the wettest season of the year. The Camp itself will be composed of huts made of wood, placed on brick foundations, about forty

by twenty feet in size, arranged in rows, with streets twenty feet wide between each, running down the side of the hill, so as to form an inclined plane for the water to be carried away in rainy weather. Each house will face the one at the opposite side, and there will be a space between the end of each, forming as it were cross streets—a matter of great importance in the ventilation. Each hut will be covered in with asphalt, except those of the officers, which will have vulcanised iron roofs, and will be supplied with a stove in the centre, and open by a door at each end. Some of them will have boarded floors, others merely the soil on which they are placed, and none will have ceilings. It is estimated that five rows, each having eight huts, will accommodate 1500 men. The foundations for four are already built. Ovens and a slaughtering house will also be erected: thus, along with being taught to manoeuvre in masses, the men will be trained to the minor though not less important duties of the field.

THE ORDNANCE FACTORY at ENFIELD LOCK.—The Government Ordnance Factory for the manufacture of muskets and small arms at Enfield Lock, having been found very inadequate to the extensive supply at present required, is about being increased to a very considerable extent. The new building, when complete, will be surmounted by a corrugated iron roof of immense space. In consequence of the large number of workmen now employed, and those that will be necessarily required, the Eastern Counties Railway Company have established a new station about a quarter of a mile from the factory, and midway between the Waltham and Ponders End stations, thereby saving the workmen a walk of at least two miles.

INSPECTION OF THE GUARDS FOR SERVICE IN THE EAST.

The detachments of the Household Infantry, under orders for embarkation to join the service battalions in the Crimea, marched yesterday from their barracks to the Wellington Barrack Parade, where his Royal Highness Prince Albert and Staff, in the presence of a very large assemblage of persons, made a most minute examination of the men, their arms, and accoutrements.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, arrived shortly after ten o'clock, the Prince Albert wearing the tunic or new dress of the regiment, of which he is the Colonel. There were also on the parade-ground Colonel Wood (the second in command of the regiment), Quartermaster Payne, Colonel Thornton, Captain Hutton, Brigade Adjutant, John F. Cust, Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of Grenadier Guards; Captain Kepple, of the 2nd Battalion of Grenadiers; Lieutenant H. Parnell, of the Grenadier Guards; Captain Quin, Lieutenant Mallett, Colonel Lewis, Colonel How, the Hon. G. Cadogan, Lieut.-Colonel Bruce, Captain Thesiger, the Hon. A. F. Egerton, Lieutenant J. Digby, Lieutenant the Earl of Carrick, Lieutenant the Viscount Stormont, and many other distinguished officers belonging to the Scots Fusiliers and Coldstreams.

Prince Albert having reached the ground, he was received by the troops with full honours, the bands playing "God Save the Queen." The Prince Albert, accompanied by his distinguished suite, walked through the ranks, and minutely inspected the men, and expressed his approbation of their apparent efficiency. His Royal Highness, on perceiving several invalided soldiers, expressed his sympathy with their sufferings.

On his Royal Highness Prince Albert's return, the various detachments marched to Buckingham Palace, where her Majesty, Prince Albert, his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg, the Prince of Wales, and the younger branches of the Royal family, inspected them from the balcony of the interior courtyard, the bands of the various regiments being in attendance. At the conclusion of the inspection, her Majesty expressed her extreme satisfaction at the soldier-like bearing and efficiency of the several troops brought under her notice, when the detachments returned to their various barracks, and were greeted with the most energetic cheers from crowds of all classes who had assembled to witness the inspection.

On Wednesday forenoon, at nine o'clock, about 1000 of the Royal Artillery, with the full complement of officers, horses, baggage-waggons, and twelve pieces of heavy cannon, marched from the Barracks at Romford, Essex, for the Royal Dockyard, Woolwich, preparatory to their departure for the seat of war in the East. The whole of the men were in high spirits, and were loudly cheered as they passed on their way to London.

THE SARDINIAN CONTINGENT.—The embarkation of the Sardinian contingent will take place at the period first fixed on—that is, from the 10th to the 15th inst. The organisation of the squadron that will accompany and partly convey it is now completed, and the command confided to the Marquis de Negro. Two squadrons of cavalry in garrison at Chambery have received orders by electric telegraph to leave immediately *en route* for the East, and they would accordingly proceed to Genoa on Saturday. A grand banquet of 110 covers was given on Friday week at Turin by the deputies to such of their military colleagues as were about to embark with the contingent. Members of all shades of politics, even those who voted against the treaty of alliance, took part in this farewell.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Many an officer had a bit of some sorry green substitute for a shamrock in his cap, and the cries of the applauding multitude had now and then a particular "chime" about them which showed that the Hibernians who owned the voices had not forgotten the peculiar rite and ceremonies by which this erewhile celebrated day was remembered in times gone by. But not a drunken man was visible on the course. Every face beamed with good humour and joy, and high spirits. *Suit perpetua*. Some thoughtful people at home had actually sent out to their friends real shamrocks by post, which arrived just in the nick of time, and an officer of my acquaintance was agreeably surprised this morning by his servant presenting himself at his bedside with a semblance of that curious plant, which he had cut out of some esculent vegetable with a pair of scissors, and a request that he would wear it, "and nobody would ever know the differ."—*Letter from the Camp.*

EMIGRATION.—323,113 persons emigrated in 1854, viz.: 43,621 to Canada, &c.; 192,993 to the United States; 83,162 to Australia; and 3336 to other places. Since 1840, as many as 3,133,414 persons have emigrated from this country to the countries above mentioned.

CREMORNE GARDENS were reopened yesterday for promenade; and the amusements will be resumed on Monday with a holiday programme that will, doubtless, prove attractive.

SHIP-LAUNCHES.—On Tuesday there were launched from Messrs. Mare's ship-building yard, Blackwall, two vessels—one of 900 tons, intended for the Mexican Government; the other, a large iron screw steam-ship of 2200 tons, sister ship to the *Perseverance*, which lately overturned in the Woolwich Dockyard. This latter vessel is also taken up by our own Government, for the conveyance of troops, and is ready for her engines, which are now in course of transit from Messrs. Napier's, of Glasgow, and which were some time back seized as the property of the late Emperor of Russia. This splendid vessel makes, in all, five ships launched within a fortnight from Messrs. Mare's yards. The gun and mortar batteries are rapidly progressing to completion, and are expected to be launched in a few days.

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.—Cold is less fatal than dirt in the air and water of London, through which the cholera, dysentery, and other matters that induce zymotic diseases are diffused; thus while intense cold killed 1604 persons in the five weeks preceding the last; cholera destroyed 7222 in five weeks of last year; and while cold killed 159 men and women of the age 20—40, cholera killed 1909 at the corresponding age. In all the religions of antiquity, before science had demonstrated the truth that dirt is the cause of innumerable diseases, men had been taught by their great lawgivers to regard personal uncleanness as something defiling and unholy; yet it is only recently that the artisans, and even the middle class of London, have in parts been supplied with baths, and with the means of washing linen easily and at little cost. The last return of the "Committee for Promoting the Establishment of Baths and Wash-houses for the Labouring Classes," shows that there are thirteen baths and wash-houses in London, at which 1,220,739 baths were administered for £17,062, and 421,101 washings of the linen of about 1,684,404 persons were performed for £6096.—*Registrar General's Report, Feb. 24, 1855.*

AMONG the cases about to come before the Insolvent Debtors' Court, London, is that of an insolvent, at present confined in prison, who is nearly ninety-five years of age.

AN EDITORIAL DUEL.—On the 6th ult. M. Corradi, editor of the *Clamor Publico*, and M. De Mazo, editor of the *Occidente*, both at Madrid fought a duel. To escape the penalty of the Spanish law, the duel was fought in a hired hall. The combatants fought with swords, which were ground for the occasion, and, having wounded one another, closed, intending each to end the other's life. The seconds were compelled to tear them asunder.

THE Marchioness of Ely has been selected by the Queen to be Lady in Waiting to the Empress of the French during her Majesty's stay in England.

LORD ALFRED PAGET, Equerry to her Majesty, has been selected by the Queen to be Lord in Waiting to the Emperor of the French during his visit to England.

THE manners of the "old Court" are returning to the Tuileries. On the day after the first representation of the "Demi-Monde," Prince Napoleon sent to the successful author (Alexandre Dumas, fils) two magnificent diamond shirt-studs.

A PARTY of thirty-one Mormonites started from Worcester on Monday morning by the ten o'clock train to Liverpool, on their way to the Salt Lake.

THE Sardinian clergy are making enormous efforts to induce the Senate to reject the Convent Law. The Pope has authorised the clergy to guarantee, in case of rejection, 900,000 francs indemnity to the poor curates, in lieu of the benefits proposed to be conferred on them by the law.

NEARLY twenty of the senior mail-guards are about to be superannuated. Some of these guards have been in the service of the Post-office between forty and fifty years.

MUSIC.

THE "directors" of the Royal Italian Opera—a body incorporated in the single person of the enterprising Mr. Gye—have issued their usual prospectus of the arrangements for the season. Its substance may be comprised in a small space. The season is to begin on the 10th of April (Tuesday next), and to terminate early in August. A very strong company has been engaged. Its principal members are: Soprani—Mlle. Bosio, Mlle. Jenny Ney, Mlle. Marai, and Madame Viardot; Contralto—Mlle. Didié; Tenors—Mario (for a limited number of nights), Tamberlik, Gardoni, and Lucchesi; Baritones and Basses—Ronconi, Lablache, Formès, Zelger, Tagliafico, and Polonini. All these performers are well known to us, with the exception of Mlle. Jenny Ney, who brings with her a splendid Continental reputation, both as an actress and a singer. Two other names are mentioned, both new to us—Albicini, a tenor, and Graziani, a baritone. This company is almost superfluously strong in some respects, while in one and a by no means unimportant one it is exceedingly weak; the only contralto being Mlle. Didié. We fully expected Madame Borghi Mamo, the celebrated contralto, of whom we lately gave a particular account, and who is now in the highest favour with the Parisian public. The only new operas promised this season are Meyerbeer's last work, "L'Etoile du Nord," and Verdi's "Trovatore." Meyerbeer is now occupied in preparing his opera for the Italian stage, and it is hoped that he will superintend its production in person. In the "Trovatore," the character of the *Gitana*, or gipsy, is to be performed by Madame Viardot, who has lately appeared in it at Paris with remarkable success. More attention than usual, it would seem, is to be paid to the ballet; for, in addition to the performers of last season, we are to have the famous Fanny Cerito, formerly one of the most brilliant stars of Her Majesty's Theatre. There is thus a goodly preparation for the approaching campaign; but, among the tuneless host whom we have been accustomed for so many years to welcome at this season, there is one whom we shall welcome no more—and what can console us for the loss of the peerless Grisi?

Thus, not being a theatrical week, has been a week of concerts. Mr. Allcroft had one of his "monster" performances on Monday evening, at the Lyceum. An army of singers and players got through a farago of popular music, to the delight of a crowded and insatiable audience, who insisted on having the greatest part of it twice over. On the same evening a concert of a much superior class was given at St. Martin's-hall by Mr. Alfred Mellon, a young musician of great talent, who is rapidly rising to eminence. Several of the finest orchestral pieces, including Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony," Mendelssohn's overture to "Ruy Blas," and an excellent overture of Mr. Mellon's own, entitled "Heloise," were admirably performed by a select band. M. Sainton played a new fantasia, composed by himself, on themes from Verdi's "Rigoletto;" and Mendelssohn's Andante and Rondo Brillante, in B minor, was executed in a masterly manner by the accomplished young pianist, Mr. Cousins. Madame Clara Novello sang the splendid scene, "Ocean, thou mighty monster," from Weber's "Oberon," and the aria, "Deh vieni," from "Figaro;" and Formès gave the famous bullo song, "Largo al factotum," from the "Barbiere di Siviglia." The hall was crowded, and this excellent concert had the success it so well deserved.—Likewise, on the same evening, Mr. and Mrs. German Reed gave a comic and musical entertainment, under the title of "Illustrated Gatherings." Mrs. Reed (better known as Miss Priscilla Horton) has long been a favourite of the public, both as a comedian and a singer. She gave a series of sketches of character, extremely lively and amusing, intermixed with admirable singing. The most remarkable part of the entertainment was a scene taken from Hogarth's picture of "The Enraged Musician." Mr. Reed personated the unfortunate virtuoso, who was persecuted successively by a garrulous landlady, an Italian organ-boy, a country housemaid, and a French prima donna; all these characters being assumed by Mrs. Reed. This clever performance was very favourably received, and promises to have a successful run.

On Tuesday evening the London Sacred Harmonic Society performed "Elijah;" and on Wednesday the Sacred Harmonic Society gave the "Messiah." On both occasions, as usual, Exeter-hall was filled to the doors.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett's second concert of Classical Pianoforte Music, at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Tuesday evening, was a most elegant and refined entertainment. Mr. Bennett was assisted by Herr Ernst, Signor Piatti, and Madame Clara Novello. The principal instrumental pieces were Mozart's Trio in B flat for piano, violin, and violoncello; Clementi's Sonata in B minor, Op. 40; Beethoven's Sonata in G, Op. 30, for piano and violin; Mendelssohn's Duet in D, for piano and violoncello; and a selection from Mr. Bennett's own Preludes and Lessons. Madame Clara Novello sang Purcell's "Morning Hymn"—a fine specimen of that great old master; and Meyerbeer's "Sabbath Song," with English words by Mr. Oliphant. So attractive was this fine performance, that the great room was literally full to overflowing.

THE THEATRES.

OLYMPIC.—We had occasion lately, in noticing an amateur performance, to mention that a change had taken place in regard to such exhibitions. We were wont to go to them for the purpose of "guying" the candidates for applause, and getting some sport out of their blunders. A professional prejudice had, moreover, for a long time been maintained that the technical and traditional business of the stage was so difficult, the best part of a life was needful to its acquisition. Such notions are now dissipated: improved education, and appliant facilities, have given such advantages to the histrionic neophyte, that a play enacted by novices would now-a-days command respect, and furnish no motive for derision; nay, we have been present at amateur acting that was scarcely to be distinguished from the professional. On one or two occasions we have witnessed a tragedy so supported by ladies and gentlemen that its general effect was even better than that obtained by regular workers. On last Saturday at this theatre an experiment was tried, which henceforth in amateur annals must hold a remarkable place. The "Fielding Club" had resolved, for the benefit of a much esteemed journalist, now suffering from a severe affliction, to venture on an amateur pantomime—a school of histrionic art in which volunteer pupils are naturally rare. Mr. Albert Smith, Mr. Cole, Mr. Hall, Mr. Palgrave Simpson, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Arthur Smith, Mr. Bidwell, Mr. Edmund Yates, Mr. J. Robins, Mr. Ibbotson, and Mr. Hallett, assisted by a professional *Columbine*, Miss Rosina Wright, adventured on the perilous ground and within the magic circle of harlequinade achievement. It is proper to state that this "terrible feat" was preceded by the quiet presentation of the farce of "My Neighbour's Wife," which proved to be very neatly acted. The name of the pantomime is "Harlequin Guy Fawkes; or, a Match for a King." A prologue by Mr. Tom Taylor introduced the important experiment. The opening was entrusted to Mr. Albert Smith, who, as *Catesby*, smokes a pipe in the midst of barrels of gunpowder, in the vaults under the Houses of Parliament, and sings a song including the story of the Fifth of November. Mr. Holmes was the *Guy Fawkes*; the combat between him and *Catesby* being admirably managed, with the genuine conventional grotesque. When the transformations were effected, Mr. Bidwell, as *Harlequin*, Mr. Arthur Smith, as *Pantaloon*, Mr. J. Robins, as *Clown*, and Mr. Edmund Yates, as *Lover*, proved to be so well fitted for their parts, that curiosity soon changed into wonder, admiration, and applause. "Hot Codlings" was sung to a riotous demand of the house; and the whole affair, with its mock accessories and real humour, terminated in a decided triumph. Mr. Albert Smith appeared also, as a showman, singing the "Country Fair," with alterations, in the style of the late Mr. Mathews, and audibly identifying the performer of some surprising balancing tricks as an amateur. Nor were the audience less distinguishable than the actors. Among those present were the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the Marchioness of Albury, the Marquis d'Azeglio, the Marquis of Stafford, Earl of Mountchances, the Earl of Longford, the Earl of Shelburne, Earl of Arundel, Lord and Lady Bessborough, Marquis and Marchioness of Granville, Francis de Waverley, and others of noble name, with the *élite* of authorship and the press.

On the reopening of the theatres on Monday, some new pieces were introduced. At the Princess's, a romance in two acts, entitled the "Mistress of Toledo." At the Haymarket, an extravaganza, by Mr. Harcourt, called the "New Haymarket Spring Meeting (1855)," introducing Lord Mayor's Show. Mr. Buckstone sustaining the character of Lord Mayor, Mr. C. White the City of London, and Mr. Chippendale Old Father Thomas. The sporting portion of the Extravaganza will introduce the "Grand Stand of Up-and-Downs, and Bird's-eye View of the Race-course, in the Field of Speculation, in which the favourites of the town will be trotted out by their respective jockeys. The names of the horses and colours of the riders will be correctly given; while, previous to the start, the jockeys will dance a hornpipe and galop." At the ADELPHI, "A New Edition of the Fairy Tales of Mother Goose,

with numerous highly-coloured Illustrations;" and at ASTLEY'S, "The Field against the Favourite." The LYCEUM company act at SADLER'S WELLS for the next fortnight. Mr. C. Mathews is engaged for two months at the Haymarket.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PALAMEDES.—There are no finer models than the games you speak of, played between La Bourdonnais and McDonnell. They have many faults. Yes; what, that is human, is exempt? But where will you find such beauties? Where the same invention, depth, comprehensiveness—in a word, mind—as in these Titanic battles?

MOHIS.—Your opponent is in error. The King is not incapacitated from Castling by having once been checked.

HINDOO, CAMBRIDGE, GROTIUS, T. G. L., TYRO.—Now under consideration.

C. W., Sunbury; D. T., G. P., HENRY IV.—Ineligible.

W. C. C.—The Enigma you refer to appears impracticable according to your own Solution, but to admit of an easy mate by 1. P. to B 8th "Queens," &c.

Solutions of Eichstade's clever Stratagem, or of the curious old Problem of Caliph Mutasim Billah, have been furnished by W. C. C., C. W., Sunbury; F. T. F., A DANE, CEDIUS, CHIRURG, RURI, Dorset; F. T., Derby; E. H., N. B.

STONOR D., Piazza di Spagna, Rome.—On a question so intimately affecting the interests of the Game as a revision of the Laws of Chess, the opinions of distinguished players in every country are entitled to consideration and respect, and certainly none more so than those of the Italian school. We trust, therefore, that you and others of eminence among amateurs of Italy will give free expression to your sentiments on the subject.

W. F.—No. Your attempt to solve the Indian Problem is wide of the mark.

MORENO.—There is not space for the "Career," or we should be tempted to break a lance upon more than one point in your pleasant gossip about Spanish Sports. Even as regards the Bull-fights, or, more correctly, Bull-fests, admitting that you have some show of historic evidence to favour your attempt to trace them to a Roman origin; since everybody has heard of the "Ludi Taurilia;" and Pliny speaks of the Roman Bull-fights as a Thessalian pastime; yet, the probabilities are that the Gotho-Spaniards owed their Bull-fests to the Moorish Caliphs. But to claim for Iberian Chess the same illustrious descent, when all authorities worth the name concur to prove the game unknown to Greeks and Romans both, is the wildest of quixotic theories.

ALPHA-BETA.—The objections you advance to a plurality of Queens on the Chess-board have been, with more or less force, repeatedly urged. Very lately, indeed, M. Petroff has suggested that the possessor of a Pawn advanced to its eighth square should be permitted to renounce his right to demand for it a second Queen, or other piece, and let it remain as a Pawn until it was captured, or the game brought to a close. With all deference to so eminent an authority, and to those who entertain the same opinion, we hold this suggestion to be inadmissible. What is a Pawn? A Pawn is a member of the Chess army, privileged to move one square forward, in a direct line, and to capture on one square forward, diagonally. When, therefore, it reaches the extreme limit of the Chess-board, as it cannot go farther forward—if not invested with the power of some piece which is allowed to retrograde—it must remain, not a Pawn, but a mere nullity. This consideration, we apprehend, it was which led originally to the promotion of a Pawn whenever it arrived at the eighth square. Once there, it was immovable, a useless incumbrance; and the idea of changing it for a piece which could be brought into action again was not only natural, but almost inevitable.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 579 by Alma-viva, T. Addison, Omega, Guilelmus, Messmate, C. W., Sunbury, W. C. C., Derevon, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 580 by W. C. C., M. P., Dumbiedikes, N. B., C. W., Sunbury, Chirurg, Ruri, Clericus, F. T. F., Cardinal, Derevon, F. R. of Norwich, F. T., Derby; E. H., Czar, Omicron, A. M., Fakenham, D. G. Beiddam, Courtegeof, H. S. K., Bladud, Philo-Chess, Manfred, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS by Derevon, P. P., O. P. Q., Sigma, Felix, N. B., F. T., Derby; E. H., are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 579.

WHITE. BLACK.

1. Kt to K B 3rd (ch) P takes Kt

2. K to K B 5th (dis. ch.) K to his 4th

3. R takes B (ch) R takes R

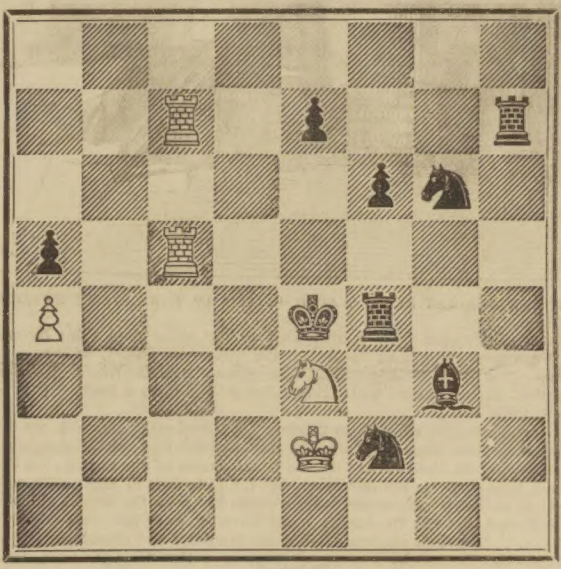
4. R to K 6th (ch)—

Drawing the game by perpetually checking the Black King.

PROBLEM No. 581.

By J. B., of Bridport.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN PARIS.

Game played in a *petite Tournoi*, between MM. JOURNOUD and SZABO.

(Centre Gambit.)

WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. J.)	WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. J.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	20. R takes B	K to Q 3rd
2. P to Q 4th	P takes P	21. Q R to K sq	B to K 3rd
3. K Kt to K B 3rd (a)	P to Q 4th	22. P to K B 4th	P to K Kt 3rd
4. K B to Q B 4th (b)	P to Q Kt 4th	23. P to Q B 3rd	Q P takes P
5. K B to Q 5th (c)	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	24. P takes P	P to Q Kt 6th
6. Kt to K 5th	Kt takes Kt (d)	25. Q R to Q sq (ch)	K to Q B 3rd
7. K B takes Q R	Q B to Q R 3rd	26. Q R to K Kt sq	P to Q B 5th
8. K B to Q 5th	Q to K R 5th (e)	27. K to K B 2nd	R to Q sq
9. Q to Q 2nd (f)	K Kt to K B 3rd	28. Q R to Q Kt 2nd	R to Q sq
10. Q to K B 4th	Q takes Q	29. K R to K 3rd	R takes R
11. B takes Q	K B to Q 3rd	30. K takes R	K to Q Kt 3rd
12. B takes Kt	B takes B	31. P to K R 3rd	P to K R 4th
13. Castles	Kt takes B	32. Q to Q 4th	K to Q B 4th
14. P takes Kt	P to Q 3rd	33. R to Q Kt sq	B to K B 4th
15. K R to K sq	K to Q 2nd	34. R to Q Kt 2nd	B to Q 6th
16. Kt to Q 2nd	Q B to Q Kt 2nd	35. R takes P	P takes R
17. P to Q R 4th	P to Q Kt 5th	36. K takes B	K takes P
18. Kt to K 4th	Q B takes P	37. P to Q B 4th	K to Q R 6th
19. Ktks Q B P (ch)	P takes Kt		

And Black wins.

(a) If White take the Pawn with his Q, Black attacks him with his Q Kt, and gains time to bring his forces into action.

(b) We prefer, now, P to Q 3rd.

(c) A very young player will understand why White declined the bait.

(d) Black is generally thought to have more than compensation for the lost exchange in the superior number and situation of his Pawns, but we have doubts as to the correctness of this opinion.

(e) The main object of playing the Q thus is to prevent White from Castling safely.

(f) Had he Castled, Black would have answered with P to Q Kt 5th; and when the Rook moved, with Kt to K B 5th, &c.

CHESS IN INDIA.

MOHESCHUNDER BONNERJEE gives Mr. MORTON (formerly of the Calcutta Chess-club) the odds of the Pawn and two moves.

(Remove Black's K B Pawn from the board.)

WHITE (Mr. M.)	BLACK (Brahmin.)	WHITE (Mr. M.)	BLACK (Brahmin.)
1. P to K 4th	P to Q 3rd	12. K B to Q 3rd	K to B 2nd
2. P to Q 4th	P to K Kt 3rd	13. Q B to K 3rd	Kt to Q B 3rd
3. K B to Q B 4th	P to K Kt 3rd	14. P to Q B 3rd	Q to Q Kt 3rd
4. P to K R 4th	B to K Kt 2nd	15. Q to Q B 2nd	Kt to Q sq
5. P to K R 5th	K Kt to K B 3rd	16. Kt to K B 3rd	B to K B 3rd
6. P takes P	P takes P	17. B takes Kt P (ch)	K to B sq
7. R takes R (ch)	B takes R	18. Castles	Q B to K Kt 5th
8. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	P to Q B 3rd	19. Kt to K 5th	K B takes Kt
9. P to K B 4th	P to Q 4th	20. K B P takes B	Q B takes R
10. P takes P	Kt takes P	21. B to K B 6th (ch)	K to K Kt sq
11. Kt takes Kt	P takes Kt	22. Q to K B 5th	

And Black resigns.

READING AND BERKSHIRE CHESS-CLUB.—The anniversary meeting and dinner of this old-established society are appointed to be held at the New Rooms, Reading, on Tuesday next, the 10th inst.; and a strong muster of amateurs from the adjoining counties and from London is anticipated. Strangers desirous of admission can obtain tickets to the play-rooms, without charge, by applying to the hon. secretary, Mr. W. Hodges, jun., Reading.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAMS, THE CHESS PLAYER.—We are obliged to a Correspondent (R. C., of Clifton) for apprising us that a praiseworthy effort is being made by the friends of this unfortunate gentleman to place one of his orphan children in the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead. The election, it appears, will take place on the 25th of May; and those of our readers who have proxies are entreated to send them to the Rev. H. C. Brice, St. Peter's, Bristol; or the Rev. J. B. Clifford, St. Matthew's, Bristol.

THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. XI.)

THE temporary cessation of Parliamentary talk will afford an opportunity for Government action, and it may be hoped that the Ministers, being released from the necessity of answering, or attempting to answer, disagreeable questions, will employ the recess in the performance of those duties which may render future questions comparatively needless. Sir John Pakington has announced his intention to place a rod in pickle during the holidays, to be used immediately after the vacation, unless that vacation has been employed in getting the Colonial-office into a more satisfactory condition. I have already touched on this topic, and I am glad to find that Sir John Pakington is determined to "know the reason why" the Colonies are to be abandoned to the care, or rather to the carelessness, of a Minister already occupied with a mission at Vienna. Already has Sir George Grey given up the task he had undertaken of attending to Colonial matters during the absence of the Colonial Secretary, and an important department is now left almost to chance, because the interests that are being sacrificed are too distant to make their complaints heard immediately. In dealing with the Colonies, the Ministers appear to act on the principle of a spendthrift who is perfectly reckless of his affairs as long as credit can be obtained, and there is a possibility of putting off the day of reckoning. When the bills begin to come in—when complaints from a score of neglected colonies are poured in upon the Government, and brought under the notice of the Legislature, which is sure to be the case as soon as there is time to receive news from abroad of the feeling created by what is now passing at home—the Ministers will begin to regret, perhaps, that they did not listen in time to the warnings of the Silent Member and the voice of Sir John Pakington. The fact is, that the public interests are sacrificed too easily when party interests are concerned; and it is notorious that Lord John Russell was appointed Colonial Minister, not because he is the fittest man for the management of Colonial affairs—or, if he is, why is he away from his post?—but simply because his "adhesion" was thought likely to give strength to Lord Palmerston's Government.

In the absence of political discussion there is much grave matter in the records of our law-courts to invite serious reflection on certain very disagreeable features of our social condition. Crime, which the friends of moral progress had hoped was daily becoming more limited to the ignorant classes, has developed itself in more than one instance among those whose position should have placed them out of the reach of what are considered the usual causes of delinquency. As long as the laws are broken by none but the poor and the uneducated there is every fair prospect of social amendment, for poverty will disappear before industry, and ignorance is daily diminishing among even the very humblest classes of the community. As long as criminals are found chiefly among the physically and intellectually destitute, society may feel that it has only itself to thank for the inconvenience it suffers on account of crime, inasmuch as the remedy is in the hands of society itself, which has only to set to work to educate and improve the physical condition of all its members. But what is to be done when we find persons of good condition violating the laws in the manner recently shown in two very sad instances? The different modes of treatment of two persons about equal in station, and equally charged with having offended against the law, may illustrate the difference between the value of professional and unprofessional magistrates. In the first case we find the utmost caution to prevent the ends of justice from being defeated by the escape of the accused; while, in the second, we see a proved and admitted offender escaping with what seems to be a very inadequate punishment. Without alluding more particularly to the former case, which is still *sub judice*, I may suggest that a penalty of five pounds on a young lady who drives her pony carriage, and can throw down a ten-pound note for change, is not a very severe punishment for torturing an animal to a degree that had a costermonger so ill-used his denkey, in London, he would probably have expiated his offence by a term of imprisonment. In the costermonger's case, a fine would have been a real punishment; while, in the case of the Baronet's daughter, the only mode of really punishing was, by a commitment to prison without a penalty. It would seem to an ordinary comprehension that, for such cases as the latter, the power of imprisoning without fine was expressly given; but such does not seem to have been the view taken by a bench of county justices in the instance to which I have alluded.

Many persons will have perused with an uncomfortable feeling the report of a trial in which a late Inspector of Police, who has retired on a pension from the public service, avowed himself to have taken up the profession of a private spy on the actions of any one that he may be paid for keeping watch over. This infamous and truly un-English business ought to be put down at once, for though it may be employed sometimes in tracking the guilty, it may be resorted to for the vilest purposes, and become a curse to society. I regret to say that the habits of some portion of the police are favourable to this system of espionage, which keeps an eye on evil, not for the purpose of baffling its designs, but in order to see it execute its plans, and then make a profit of the knowledge that has been acquired. The first duty of a police is the prevention of crime; but its detection is too often made the primary object with a body of men whose vigilance is estimated, not by the offences they prevent, but by those they assist in bringing to punishment. He is regarded as the most vigilant officer who has been a witness in the largest number of cases of conviction, though he may sometimes have been morally a sharer in the guilt at which he has looked on; for surely he is, according to all moral law, a *particeps criminis* who stands by during the commission of a crime which he might have prevented from being completed. If promotion in the police were to depend in some degree upon the smallness of the number of cases in the district where the candidates for promotion might have been employed, accompanied, of course, by an absence of any well-grounded complaint of neglect of duty, society would gain considerably by the system; and we should not be so likely to hear of retired detectives setting up in the "business" of witnesses to the commission of acts of criminality.

The payment of what a highly-salaried butler was pleased to term the "inferior clergy;" is a topic that is forced on the attention by the report of a recent action for libel, brought by a reverend gentleman, who, with a family of eight children, had nothing to live upon but a curacy of £120 per annum. He had a prospect of a better thing, worth some £400 a year; but he was unable to obtain it because somebody had charged him with habitual drunkenness. This accusation has been happily negatived by the verdict of a jury, which has awarded him twenty-five pounds as compensation for his injured character. The reputation of a clergyman would seem to be *prima facie* worth more than the sum above named; but perhaps the Jury felt that, although a rich Rector might suffer from the imputation, a poor Curate could not be said to be very materially degraded by a charge of habitual drunkenness. Poverty does sometimes foolishly fly to the bottle; and frequent intoxication might, therefore, be considered as not such a very serious slander on the character of a clergyman with a very large family and an income of £120 per annum. It was rather distressing to learn from the evidence that the reverend gentleman was avowedly in the habit of taking what he called "a glass," and associating with those who, however respectable in their way, would appear to have been fitter companions for a parish clerk than for a parish parson. It is hardly fair to blame a clergyman who accepts the society of his inferiors when his means will not allow him the society of his equals. As it is proper for the parson to visit all his parishioners, no one can fairly charge him with impropriety in making companions of those who are on a par with himself in pecuniary position; for it would be ridiculous, while paying him the wages of a carpenter, to expect him to mix in what is called the "best society" of his neighbourhood.

Talking of the ill-treatment of professional men reminds one of the complaints of the assistant-surgeons in the navy, who are naturally object to be classed with boys and uneducated subordinates, with whom it is impossible for men of superior attainments to hold companionship, with comfort either to themselves or to those with whom it is desired to bring them in contact. By forcing into each other's society those who are unfitted, by difference of taste and education, for comfortable companionship, the superior is degraded without the inferior being elevated, and dissatisfaction is caused to both. The medical body has so keenly felt the treatment it has received, that meetings have been held, and even the students have resolved not to accept the offers that have been made by the Government of positions which ought to be filled by more experienced members of the profession. This has led to a determination to accept the services—if services they can be called—of dressers, who have attended for six months in a dispensary, poor-house, or hospital; and it is to the hands of such inexperienced bunglers that the care of our sick and wounded seamen will be abandoned, unless the public voice seconds that of the medical profession, in protesting against so flagrant an act of official impropriety.



NEW GRECO-ROMAN SALOON, JUST OPENED AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE noble apartment, or gallery, represented in the above illustration, has just been opened to the public, and will be acceptable to the Easter visitors, especially to the more classically disposed, who are interested in mythology and hero-worship. It is the larger room of the two seen from the corridor, after leaving the large entrance-hall: its dimensions are—80 feet in length, about 17 feet in width, and 19 feet in height. The walls are coloured bright red, the moulding is polychromatic, as well as the ceiling, or at least that portion of it which is left to support the skylights by which the room is lighted. The stove-grates are of the same bold pattern as those in the large Egyptian saloon, and other antique galleries.

This new apartment corresponds with the spacious grandeur and simplicity which we so much admire in the principal galleries of the Museum. The room is named the Third Greco-Roman Saloon, and contains a series of statues of gods, demi-gods, and heroes. Our Artist's View shows the

fragment of a statue of a youth, seen on the right hand side; beyond which are several heads of the Muses, the statue of Thalia, with various others. The room is terminated by a recess, and in the centre is a Caryatid figure, behind which is a staircase leading to a lower room, at present unfinished.

By each successive addition to this truly national establishment, we are reminded of the large amount of enlightenment and social enjoyment which the British Museum has opened to all classes of the people; on this account, therefore, we are unwilling that the recipients of this public good should be excluded unnecessarily for a single day from the benefit. It will be recollected that the Museum is closed three weeks in the year—namely, in January, May, and September—for the purposes of “cleaning.” Now, could not this be done by closing a portion of the Museum at a time, instead of excluding visitors from the whole of the public rooms at one time. The old Museum building was removed by piecemeal, and the present edifice was erected in the same manner; and surely a similar plan might be adopted for the “cleaning” of the rooms.

CIRCASSIAN BEAR IN THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, REGENT'S-PARK.

AMONG the attractions offered to holiday-makers, the Zoological Society's Gardens in the Regent's-park are always pre-eminent. On Easter Monday, 1854, they were visited by upwards of 16,000 persons; and during the whole week large numbers continued to avail themselves of the liberal terms upon which the establishment is opened at that period. The severity of winter has touched but lightly upon the well-protected inhabitants of the Society's menagerie, in which we find all our old favourites in the most beautiful condition, and eagerly waiting for the first rays of spring sunshine, which cannot possibly be much longer denied to us.

In the recent visit which the approach of Easter has induced us to make to the Gardens, we were particularly struck with the magnificent series of “Wild Beasts,” which present almost every known variety of that popularly-interesting division of the animal kingdom. The profusion of Lions, Tigers, Jaguars, Leopards, Hyenas, and Bears, so fill the quarter allotted to them that they would seem to suffer from want of space, were it not that their healthy and vigorous appearance almost precludes the idea they could be better. It must be regretted, however, that there is, under present arrangements, no means of avoiding the separation of the smaller carnivora in two distant buildings from the main body of the collection, as it would be infinitely more striking, as well as more instructive, if the whole of the illustrations of each great group of animals could be inspected successively, and, as it were, in juxtaposition. Among the most recent additions to this part of the Collection is the somewhat singular little Bear which was captured on the Circassian coast during the cruise of H.M.S. *Samson* in the Black Sea, and brought home by the officers of that vessel. Its youth renders its identification with the common Brown Bear rather uncertain; and it is quite possible that the differences which appear to exist both in colour and expression may hereafter become sufficiently developed to characterise it as the representative of another species. The Society are rich in bears; and, in fact, only want the Spectacled Bear of South America, and the great Grizzly Bear of the Rocky Mountains, to complete their series. The absence of the latter is scarcely felt when we look at the huge Russian specimen of *Ursus Arctos* which fills the den next to the Polar Bears at the end of the Terrace—by far the finest individual of this kind ever seen, either at large or in confinement.

The Antelopes have increased, notwithstanding the severe trial which they must have undergone during so many weeks of inclement weather; and we were agreeably surprised to find a young Bland, some fourteen days old, among the noble herd of those animals which the Society originally derived from the liberality of the late Lord Derby.

The pair of Hippopotami are both growing rapidly. Our old friend Obaysh has thickened into leviathan dimensions, and exhibits no small degree of ferocity when the aspect of some obnoxious visitor excites his caprice.

Perhaps one of the most picturesque and beautiful families in the Gardens are the Great Canadian Deer—the Wapiti—of which the Society are said to possess the only specimens now existing in Europe. The collection of deer, which is really large and interesting, suffers very much in effect from its being scattered about in half a dozen different localities, instead of being arranged in a continuous line of inclosures, which, one would think, might be made a most characteristic feature in the line of the Society's occupation towards the Park.

The Birds have suffered no sensible diminution since the winter commenced; and Pelicans, Flamingoes, Brush-Turkeys, Bower-Birds, and other rarities, still enrich the long catalogue of ornithological delights which present themselves at every turn.

The Reptiles, although not quite so numerous as formerly, are in beautiful state, and include a singularly striking horned Viper, of great size, from Western Africa, which, having just shed his skin when we saw him, affords one of the most exquisite combinations of colour that can be imagined.

The Fish and Zoophytes were never more interesting than at the present moment, as several species of the latter are now to be found in the tanks at all periods of their development, and every day presents some addition or some change in the wonderful population of these most successful illustrations of submarine existence.

Nothing can exceed the order and neatness of the whole establishment; and we cannot but prognosticate another season of gratifying appreciation of the Society's efforts by the public, who are already so largely indebted to them for the combined instruction and amusement which their spirited and liberal management affords.



CIRCASSIAN BEAR, IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, REGENT'S-PARK.



"THE DEAD CHRIST,"—PAINTED BY SPAGNOLETTA.—FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

THE DEAD CHRIST, BY SPAGNOLETTA.

RIBERA, otherwise and more generally known as "Spagnoletto," was, as the latter name implies, a native of Spain. He early went to Italy, however, and studied under Michael Angelo Caravaggio, whose vigorous dramatic style he emulated in all his works. He was of a period, however (the beginning of the seventeenth century), when the true inspiration of art was gone; and artists contented themselves with following in the steps, and imitating the manner of the great originals—Michael Angelo, Raphael, Correggio, &c.—who had raised art to its zenith of power and perfection, and left behind them names of undying fame. Of these scholastic followers Caravaggio was one of the most eminent; and Spagnoletto, undoubtedly, merits to be mentioned very nearly in the same rank with that master. Spagnoletto, from habits of mind, was inclined to gloomy and horrible subjects—emaciated hermits, martyrdoms, executions, and so forth; and prided himself upon the exhibition of the anatomical development which such incidents would call forth. In colouring he is distinguished by the general use of great breadth in his lights and shades.

The picture before us, which was recently added to the national collection (having been presented by David Barclay, Esq.), is not one of the finest specimens of the artist; but it exemplifies his peculiar style, and is not without points calling for admiration. The body of the dead Christ is a careful study after nature—a little painful, perhaps, in treatment; and the figures of the female mourners exhibit an abandon of grief which appeals powerfully to the sympathies. It must be confessed, however, that, taken as a whole, there is an absence of the sublime sentiment which we find in the severer works of the earlier schools. In the draperies, also—particularly the sheet upon which the body of the Saviour rests—we do not find that breadth and simplicity of



PLATE PRESENTED TO ROBERT BRIGHT, ESQ.

treatment which we so much admire in the works of the early Florentine school. In a word, this picture is chiefly interesting as a connecting link between the period of the perfection of art and that of its decadence.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. ROBERT BRIGHT, OF BRISTOL.

A VERY gratifying recognition of eminent services to the commercial world has lately been made at Bristol, by the presentation of a valuable Service of Plate to Mr. Robert Bright, of the eminent firm of Gibbs, Bright, and Co., Bristol and Liverpool, owners of the *Great Britain* steam-ship, *Eagle* Australian line of packets, &c. The value of this superb gift, £1000, was the result of a public subscription, in acknowledgment of Mr. Bright's exertions in freeing the port of Bristol from the heavy dues levied on its commerce. Prior to 1848, the Bristol Docks were in the hands of a private company; in that year a bill was passed, whereby they were transferred to the Corporation of the City, which has resulted in a vast increase of the shipping interest. In 1847 the number of vessels from foreign parts was 372, with a tonnage of 97,000; while, in 1854, they had increased to 788, and in tonnage to 175,000.

To Mr. Bright the citizens of Bristol are mainly indebted for the carrying out of this measure so vitally important to them; and from his high character and untiring energy and zeal, conflicting interests were reconciled, and difficulties at first sight insurmountable were overcome.

The presentation took place in the Council-chamber of the city of Bristol by Mr. P. W. S. Miles, on behalf of the committee and subscribers; the Mayor, Mr. J. G. Shaw, being in the chair; and a large number of the merchants, bankers, and the influential inhabitants of the city being present.

The Service of Plate consists of the following articles:—The

On Monday, March 26th, at Woodlands, near Cardiff, aged 36 years, Betsy, the wife of Charles Pearson, contractor, Butc Enlarged Docks, Cardiff, South Wales.

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—On **EASTER MONDAY**, and during the week, being the last week but one of the **SECRET AGENT**, and the **SPANISH DANCERS**, by a new and famous troupe, with, every evening, a new **STRAVINSKY**, entitled "The New Haymarket Spring Song."

ROYAL PRINCESS THEATRE.—On **MONDAY**, **CORSIAN BROTHERS**; and (first time), the **Melodrama of Toledo**; Tuesday, Faust and Marguerite; Thursday, Corsican Brothers; Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, **Loula XI**.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—Shoreditch.—Proprietor, Mr. JOHN DOUGLASS. Continued success of the celebrated **MISS GLEN**, as the "Duchess of Malin." Mr. Henry Marston, with Mr. George Wild and Miss Fanny Williams. Every evening Tragedy and Comedy combined.

DELPHI THEATRE.—C. H. ADAMS'S **ORRERY**. Twenty-fifth year in London. To-night the last of the **ORRERY**. A scene of grandeur and magnificence has been arranged in his **Astronomical Illustrations**. Begin at Eight, and about Ten. Stalls, 3s.; Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Children half-price; Private Boxes, 2s. and 10s. 6d.; at the Box-office, or at the Libraries.

GO and HEAR LOVE, the Greatest Dramatic Ventriquist in Europe, at the **UPPER HALL**, 69, Quadrant, Regent-street. **EVERY EVENING**, at **EIGHT**, except Saturday, Saturday at Three. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—**PROUTS VOYAGE** to AUSTRALIA and VISIT to the GOLD REGIONS. Open Daily at Three and Eight. Leicester-square, opposite to the Theatre to the Great Globe. This is the only authentic Panorama of Australia ever exhibited. Stalls, 2s.; Front Seats, 1s.; Gallery, 6d.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—14, Regent-street.—The **DIOIRAMA** illustrating **EVENINGS** of the WAR is now exhibiting daily at Three and Eight. The Lecture by Mr. Stoecker. Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s.

SAM SLICK AT HOME and ABROAD, with **SPARKS and SPECS of AMERICAN HUMOUR**—On **EASTER MONDAY**, and during the week, being the last week but one of the **SECRET AGENT**, and the **SPANISH DANCERS**, by a new and famous troupe, with, every evening, a new **STRAVINSKY**, entitled "The New Haymarket Spring Song."

ADAM and EVE.—This great original work, by **JOSEPH VAN LENIUS**, is now ON **VIEW** at 57, **PALL-MALL** (opposite Marlborough-house), from Eleven to Six, daily.—Admission, 1s.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.—An Exhibition of the finest French, Italian, and English Photographs will be **OPENED** on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**, from Ten till Four. Admission, with Catalogue, One Shilling; Evening, from Seven till Nine, admission Sixpence.

PATRIOTIC FUND, for the RELIEF of the WIDOWS and ORPHANS of **BRITISH OFFICERS** who fell in the WAR with RUSSIA. Under the sanction of her MAJESTY. Drawings by Members of the **ROYAL FAMILY**, and **WORKS of ART** by Amateurs and others, are NOW **BEING EXHIBITED** at 121, Pall-mall.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. Open from Ten till dusk.

THE ROYAL PATRIOTIC FUND BALL will take place at the **HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS**, under distinguished patronage, on **FRIDAY, APRIL 13**. Henderson's Full Band of 20 Performers. Single Tickets, 10s. 6d.; Double Tickets, 18s. 6d.; Family Tickets, admitting three ladies and one gentleman, One Guinea and a Half. To be had of the Stewards. Supper included, provided by Mr. Withers.—**ROBT. W. OLLIVER**, Hon. Sec., 9, Old Bond-street; of whom all particulars may be obtained.

EXETER-HALL.—Mr. **GEORGE CASE** begs to announce that his **GRAND CONCERT** will take place on **WEDNESDAY Evening**, next, **APRIL 12**, at which time the most complete Vocal and Instrumental Artists are engaged. Tickets, 2s., 3s., 4s., 5s., 6s., 7s., 8s., 9s., 10s., 11s., 12s., 13s., 14s., 15s., 16s., 17s., 18s., 19s., 20s., 21s., 22s., 23s., 24s., 25s., 26s., 27s., 28s., 29s., 30s., 31s., 32s., 33s., 34s., 35s., 36s., 37s., 38s., 39s., 40s., 41s., 42s., 43s., 44s., 45s., 46s., 47s., 48s., 49s., 50s., 51s., 52s., 53s., 54s., 55s., 56s., 57s., 58s., 59s., 60s., 61s., 62s., 63s., 64s., 65s., 66s., 67s., 68s., 69s., 70s., 71s., 72s., 73s., 74s., 75s., 76s., 77s., 78s., 79s., 80s., 81s., 82s., 83s., 84s., 85s., 86s., 87s., 88s., 89s., 90s., 91s., 92s., 93s., 94s., 95s., 96s., 97s., 98s., 99s., 100s., 101s., 102s., 103s., 104s., 105s., 106s., 107s., 108s., 109s., 110s., 111s., 112s., 113s., 114s., 115s., 116s., 117s., 118s., 119s., 120s., 121s., 122s., 123s., 124s., 125s., 126s., 127s., 128s., 129s., 130s., 131s., 132s., 133s., 134s., 135s., 136s., 137s., 138s., 139s., 140s., 141s., 142s., 143s., 144s., 145s., 146s., 147s., 148s., 149s., 150s., 151s., 152s., 153s., 154s., 155s., 156s., 157s., 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FASHIONS FOR LONGCHAMPS, 1855.—DRAWN BY GAVARNI.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR APRIL.

ALTHOUGH the Spring Fashions for Longchamps have but partially appeared, the materials may be seen in the shops of Paris. The shades are very varied: cherry seems the colour most worn. For light persons, whose complexions would not support so varied a colour, more sober hues are intermingled. The ordinary patterns are plaids of about an inch wide, colour upon colour; bands of the same width, from the top to the bottom of the dress, are often worn; but the corsages of similar material are cut to disadvantage. This, however, is the only inconvenience; for the skirt is very graceful. Patterned robes, with three, or at most four, flounces for walking dresses, are also very much worn. The ground is clear, and the patterns are of lively shades, somewhat deeper upon the edge of the flounces, and disappearing in the ground by a *chîné*, cleverly shaded. In other robes, the pattern is reversed; the ground being shaded, and the borders plain. The material almost exclusively employed for these robes is taffetas. The materials for summer toilets are not yet known; the rigour of the season having retarded their appearance. The number of flounces upon the skirt is always repeated in miniature upon the edges of the sleeves. When seven flounces are worn on the skirt, the arms must be long to wear as many, otherwise they would reach to the shoulder.

The skirts are still very full. Corsages and sleeves have not changed. Ball dresses are still loaded with ornaments, and mingled with black velvet, either in short bows or long ends.

We notice a novelty in no longer placing the bow of the corsage in the centre, but wearing one on each side of the breast, just at the beginning of the sleeves. For balls that verge towards the fine season, a goodly number of white muslin robes richly embroidered *à l'aiguille et à plumettes* are worn; while, in order not to lose the traditions of winter, knots of velvet, or of dark-shaded ribbon are employed.

Bonnets—if what is worn upon the head may be called such—are, perhaps, smaller, and placed more behind than ever. The ornaments are disposed precisely upon the edge of the *passe en dehors*, so as to touch the inside ornaments. The crown is very much inclined, behind it is very straight. This produces almost the same effect as a slightly truncated coronet. For walking, bonnets are of rice-straw, *goffrées* alternated with taffetas bands of different colours, with either feathers or flowers. Toilets, somewhat more dressy, are made of crape and blonde, thrown back, with ornaments; green feathers, or dark-shaded, and sometimes even black, flowers. The Empress wore a dress of this pattern in one of her recent drives in the Bois de Boulogne. The *coiffures de bal* most adopted are those which terminate in long trains upon the shoulders.

The form of cloaks and mantles

is still the same. The "transition" Indian shawls are most worn. A charming garment for summer is a little black lace corsage *à basques*, with *des entre-deux* of black ribbon, placed along it lengthwise. This is worn over the corsage of the robe; which, in similar cases, is of a clear colour. For the gentlemen, the best advice is to steer clear of all eccentricity, and adopt a quiet taste in colours and forms.

GRAND MILITARY BALL AT EDINBURGH.

A VERY tasteful instance of the martial *éclat* given to our public amusements by the all-engrossing topic of the day, has just taken place at Edinburgh. It appears that the officers of the regular regiments stationed in Scotland, acting with the officers of the different militia corps recently embodied, having resolved to give a Ball upon a superb scale, the Music hall and Assembly-rooms were selected for the occasion; and the fête took place on the 29th ult. To give effect to its military character, the ample stores of the Castle Armoury, Piershill Barracks, and Leith Fort, were put

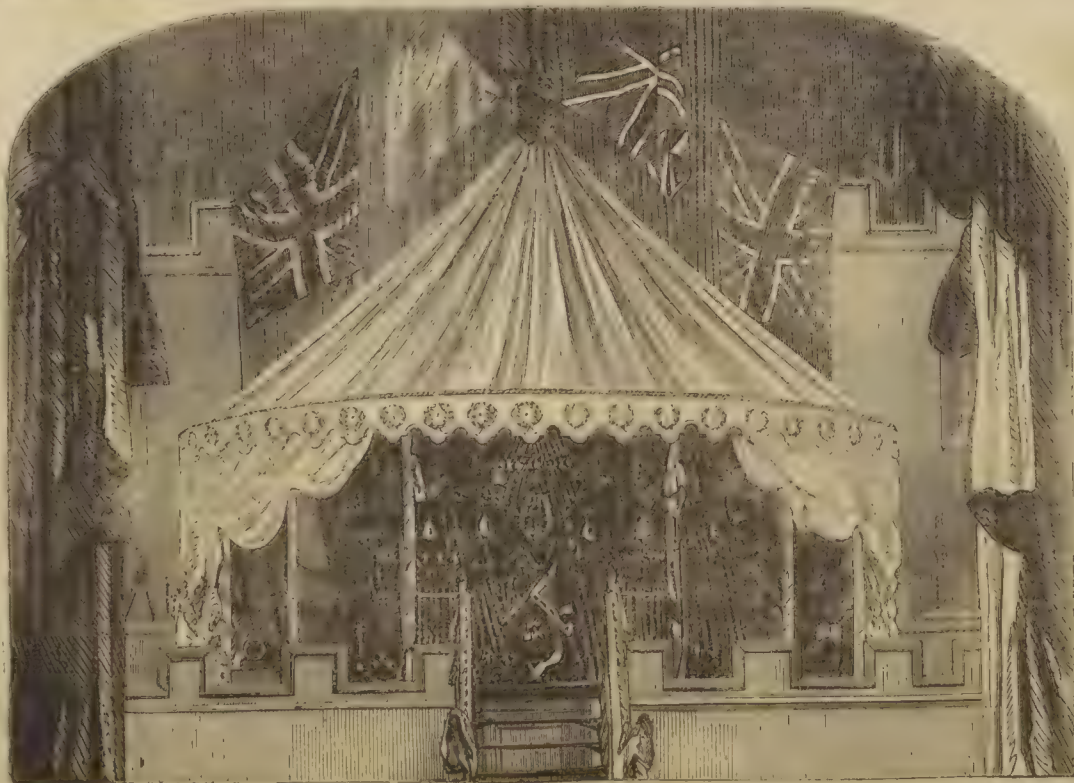
in requisition, and formed an important part of the decorations of the rooms, in which some four or five thousand stand of arms were conspicuously displayed.

The main entrance from George street was lined with evergreens. Two formidable 24-pounder cannon, with limbers complete, were ranged to the right and left of the inside of the doorway. The staircase leading up to the Ball was festooned with floral decorations. In the Assembly-rooms, the light from the gaseliers was modified by throwing around them a screen of pink tulle. It was, however, in the Music-hall that the skilful disposition of the armour was most apparent. From every point the eye was met by the gleam of sword and musket, pistol and carbine, arranged with much taste by Mr. Scrymgeour. The most conspicuous of these were two enormous discs, placed one at each end of the hall, the radii of which were formed by sabres springing from the centre. Flags were also profusely hung from every available point, and not a few suits of armour that had, mayhap, seen service in the days of Oliver Cromwell hung side by side with the Highland bonnets of the gallant 92nd. The platform and organ had disappeared, and in their place had sprung the stately battlements of a lordly fortress, in which watch and ward was kept by armed sentinels.

The presence of *bond fide* mortars pressing open-mouthed through the embrasures of the mimic fortification, and the heaps of shot and shell that lay piled beside them, kept up the warlike idea in the midst of the festive scene. In front of the fortress, and resting on its lower platform, a handsome tent was placed, inside of which, and surrounded with a blaze of light from innumerable gas jets, was erected a magnificent military trophy, composed of arms of all kinds, almost every weapon having its representative. The effect of this trophy, as seen from all parts of the hall, was most brilliant. The small ante-room which forms a connection between the Assembly-rooms and the Music-hall, was fitted up with exquisite taste in imitation of a tent, having for its pervading hues the national colours of France, the roof being partly covered with the union jack, as typical of the alliance between the two great Western Powers.

The company numbered from 600 to 700 of the *élite* of Edinburgh. The appearance of the main entrance was very imposing—the whole line of lobby and staircase being lined with military; the artillerymen standing beside their guns, and the infantry soldiers presenting an unbroken front with their arms at the present.

Mr. Mackenzie's admirable band performed in the Ball-room; but to those who preferred the wider area of the Music-hall, the band of the 1st Dragoon Guards played appropriate music; and the pipers of the Highland detachments gave some lively strathspeys.



GRAND MILITARY BALL AT EDINBURGH.—PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE.



THE 13-INCH MORTAR BATTERY, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—THE THIRTEEN-INCH MORTAR BATTERY.

This battery was brought very successfully into play, for a short time, on the 16th ult. against the "Mamelon Redoubt," about which so much has been said. Excellent practice is said to have been made by one of the 13-inch mortars, several shells from which fell in the very centre of the large redoubt. At one time the Russians were observed to leave the work in such numbers as to lead to the belief that the whole of the working party had been driven out. On the following day a well-directed shot from a 63-pounder in Gordon's Battery struck the upper pit or small redoubt, occupied by the Russian riflemen. A crowd, calculated to be forty in number, immediately took flight up towards the large redoubt, and, without going round to the entrance, sought shelter in the nearest part of the ditch. About thirty other riflemen followed in quick succession, escaping two or three together.

Now that the railway is fairly in operation, so as to enable large quantities of shells and gunpowder to be transported to the Camp without much trouble, we may expect to hear of the 13-inch mortars playing an important part in the bombardment of the town. If it be true that the ammunition of the Russians is falling short, the chances of something decisive being accomplished soon will be greatly increased.

M. SOYER ON HIS MISSION TO SCUTARI.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

ACROPOLIS, ATHENS, March 18.

HAVING left Marseilles, on the 12th inst., for Constantinople, in the prosecution of my mission to the Hospital at Scutari, owing to a sudden and unexpected change from a beautifully calm to a rough and stormy sea, M. Favre, the captain of our vessel (the *Simois*) was compelled to seek shelter in the peaceful harbour of Ajaccio, in Corsica, the birthplace of the immortal Emperor Napoleon I. And since our departure from that celebrated port a favourable breeze succeeded a most tempestuous gale, and soon brought us alongside the Levrazzi Rocks, on which the French frigate *Semillante* a few weeks ago was wrecked, and all her passengers and crew lost. At night we were gratified with the sight of a slight eruption of the Stromboli Mountain, which rises immediately from the ocean to the height of several thousand feet. Next morning we arrived at Messina, the spring garden of Sicily, where, in the open air, orange and lemon were in full blossom, and covered with delicious fruit. Lilies, roses, and violets perfume the air; whilst peas, beans, artichokes, and asparagus are gathered at the foot of the lofty mountains covered with snow. Although Messina is well known to travellers, yet they are not so well acquainted with the productions of its early spring. After a few hours' ramble in this interesting city, our party embarked, and rapidly passed on our left the small but pretty town of Reggio, and on our right the mighty Mount Etna, covered with heavy snow. In less than forty-seven hours the *Simois* brought us before the Piræus, the voyage never having before been accomplished under fifty.



M. SOYER.

The *Simois* is an English vessel, built at Liverpool by Mr. Layward, and recently purchased by the Messageries Impériales, and this is her first voyage in this sea. From the unexpected quickness of our passage, we were allowed to remain at this port four hours, and availed ourselves of the opportunity of visiting Athens. At the present time, in the ancient Parthenon, I am cooking, with my new camp stove, on a fallen capital of the stupendous ruins, a *petit déjeuner à la française*, with Greek and Sicilian wines, for my distinguished fellow-travellers, amongst whom are General Canvon (Behrman Pacha), Colonel St. George, of the Woolwich Artillery; Captain Gordon, Captains Turner and Ponsonby, G. Munro, Esq.; W. S. Ball, Esq., Q.F.M.S.; Captain Arbuckle, Captain Boucher, Aide-de-camp of General Canvon; and Signor Pitaki, the Governor of the Acropolis.

We shall speedily re-embark for Constantinople.

A. SOYER.

RUSSIAN SHIPS IN THE BALTIC.—As our squadrons are on the eve of proceeding to their previous stations in the Gulf of Finland, the following statement regarding the number of Russian war-vessels in the different harbours may be useful:—The fleet consists of three divisions, under Admirals of the Red. It consists, on the whole, of thirty liners, of which not above nineteen are fit to go to sea for other purposes than those of mere show close off harbour. The whole are set down as armed with 2470 guns. To these must be added eighteen frigates, of which only three or four are seaworthy, with 418 guns; ten brigs and corvettes, of which eight, armed with 200 guns, are seaworthy; fifteen smaller craft; twenty-one steamers, with paddles, and 130 guns; three liners and three frigates with screws—or rather without, as the machinery ordered in England has not arrived. Two divisions are at Cronstadt, and one at Sveaborg-Helsingfors. Each division is manned by an average of 8400 sailors (of whom a considerable portion are Jews), and 4000 marines. The vessels not seaworthy are principally converted into floating batteries, and armed with guns of the heaviest calibre. The general recapitulation of the sea-going force will be thus:—Sailing-vessels: liners, 19; frigates, 4; brigs, &c., 8; schooners, &c., 15; 46. Steamers: liners, 3; frigates, 3; other classes, 21; 27. Total, 73. These vessels are manned by 25,000 sailors, and 12,000 marines, making a total of 37,000 men. The above does not include the crews of the row-boats flotillas, of which so much was said, and so little seen, last year.

RUSSIAN STATE SECRETS.—A private letter from Athens of the 21st ult., states that the young Emperor of Russia took possession of the private cabinet of the late Emperor, and of his papers, immediately after his death. It seems that some interesting documents, containing correspondence with several European statesmen, have been found, and that they will, out of spite, be published. The letter speaks of a communication made, not long since, by a Greek personage to the Emperor, asking him to purchase a certain property belonging to him near Athens, and for which he demanded 100,000 francs. The Emperor replied, saying that he would give him 100,000 silver roubles instead of francs; and that, moreover, by way of recompense for certain services rendered on a former occasion, with reference to the regency of the Queen of Greece, he would grant him the enjoyment for life of the property. The same statesman is said to have supported King Otho to the point of commencing hostilities against Turkey, until a sudden stop was put to his zeal.

COPYRIGHT IN BOOKS.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE question of copyright, which now occasions treatises, complaints, and demands, deserves much attention. It is supposed to concern authors exclusively; in fact, it concerns the whole society; but, as the difficulty of ascertaining the welfare of the whole is very great, were it made out satisfactorily that copyright benefits authors, we should unhesitatingly conclude that it benefits society. If it could be shown even that the author's claim to copyright, as now understood, is founded on justice, such is our reverence for this highest of all social attributes and social duties, that we should accept it at once unhesitatingly, with all its consequences, and strenuously defend it, on the principle that to do justice to individuals, is the safest, the best, and the only way of promoting social welfare.

At present the law confers on the author of all published works, the right solely to sell and dispose of these works for a certain period. It is this conferring for a certain period, that is the gist of the whole question. Naturally and wholly independent of any human law, the author is necessarily the owner of his own thoughts and his own labour, and he cannot, except he be enslaved, be deprived of the right to dispose of his labour and his thoughts, when spoken or written, if any person think them worth being purchased. Generally he sells them, or sells his labour, to a publisher; and we may be quite sure, as this practice is universal and natural, that it is for the convenience and benefit of both parties. At this point, however, the law steps in and assures the publisher the exclusive right to sell the author's work for a certain period, departing in this case from the general practices of society. The law follows the work from the hand of the publisher to the hand of the purchaser, and forbids the latter for a period—to make all and every use of it he likes. This is the erroneous principle. A farmer or a cotton manufacturer—to illustrate the true principle as the common practice—buys the labour of the ploughman or the spinner, and the result of the labour purchased is a bushel of wheat or a web of cloth, which is exclusively the property of the farmer or the manufacturer, as the author's manuscript is the publisher's property, and which each of these purchasers is at full liberty to deal with as he pleases. But the instant the farmer or manufacturer sells the product to another person he loses all power over it; the person who purchases it acquires a full property in it, and is at liberty to do with it as he likes. It is not so with the book a man buys. He is not at liberty to make another book like it. The Copyright conferred by the law, therefore, is an arbitrary departure from the general usages of society, from the general laws of property, and requires a peculiar defence. It is not defended by saying that the law gives a copyright in patterns or in inventions, because both these are the offspring of the elder copyright in books, and on principle, like it, indefensible. 'Not now to go into the question of inventions and patterns, we confine ourselves to copyright in books.

We start from the point that an author has an inherent right to his thought and his labour; but, naturally, there can be no property in a thought, in an opinion, or in a fact, when stated. The instant it is stated it becomes common property. It differs in this respect from wheat or flour, which can be used by only one person. Neither is the style or manner in which it is expressed a property. It may, like a man's gait, be imitated. Books or papers, as material objects, are naturally property; but not their contents. The reason, too, is obvious. The value of the contents depends on the public appreciation—on the public taste. It is not conferred exclusively by the individual who writes. The author's mind even is the reflection of his age—of the minds of others mingled with his own. Copyright is an attempt to give a pecuniary monopoly of general knowledge; to stop its diffusion; to prevent the inspiration that Heaven sends only to the chosen few being made known to all. It is an attempt to establish for a class a property in the mind of the world; and the copyright conferred by law, instead of being an act of justice to an author, is an injustice inflicted on the public. We confine ourselves to these few words on the general principle, and now pass to consider the question practically.

Nobody thinks it necessary to state a reason why the farmer's or the manufacturer's, or any other man's property, should be secured to him. It is his, and that is a sufficient reason. When property has been violated, so many evil consequences ensue that we then recognise many reasons why property should be protected; but *à priori*, apart from experience, we acknowledge every man's right to his own labour, and what he acquires by it without invading the property of another. It is not so with copyright. Every man, and especially authors—all of whom live by studying and appropriating in part the thoughts of others—supposes he may make what use he pleases of the printed thoughts which he buys, or to which he has access. They are common property, and the law invents a reason for establishing a property in them by copyright. The author is to be encouraged to write by the privilege, and literature is to be encouraged by rewarding authors. This is the old plan of protection. The law continues to do for authors, by copyright, what it did for land cultivators, wool-growers, shipowners, and almost every class of workmen, till experience gradually taught us that in every case the so-called protection of the law makes victims of all to whom it has been extended. Property is secured because property is a natural right; copyright is instituted on the supposition that it encourages authorship and encourages literature, just as it was supposed—we now know most erroneously—that Corn-laws encouraged the cultivation of the soil. Copyright is not a natural right; it is established by statesmanship on the principle of expediency, and implies in statesmen an ignorance of the laws of civilisation from which the growth of literature arises.

If it rewarded authorship, and promoted literature, the object proposed would be gained. It is assumed, however, that authorship is stimulated by pecuniary considerations, and that copyright ensures a pecuniary reward. The assumptions are erroneous. The ability to think, and to write, is not the child of avarice. Almost all great authors have been authors from their cradle. Like Pope, they "lisped in numbers." Genius, even in our competitive and money-loving community, has a different source from a desire of gain. As in Burns, it is heaven-born. If it be supposed that, content with its own visions, genius would lie absorbed in its own contemplative delights, did not the statesman excite it into activity by money considerations, let us ask when did genius not aspire to distinction and admiration? It works, it lives only for honour; and, if it seek money, it is less for money's self than as a means of distinction. There is a class of authors who labour to acquire money without possessing genius; and it is amongst this class, not amongst men of genius, that the great anxiety for copyright exists. The authors who chiefly live on others are those most desirous of the privilege. How far they should be encouraged is a question worthy of being discussed, but not now: it is sufficient for the present purpose to remind the reader that the ability of authorship exists wholly independent of the artificial privilege of copyright, and that the desire to exercise it arises, not from the desire of pecuniary gain, but from the desire of distinction. It does not require, therefore, to be created, nor is it encouraged, by pecuniary rewards artificially bestowed.

That a man who devotes himself to literature should be able to live by his labours is true. But does copyright bestow a pecuniary reward? Will any man say that the popularity of Dickens is in any manner due to copyright? Can it make the public appreciate genius? Can it make men and women read and buy what they like not? Impossible. The appreciation of the public, like the genius which delights it, is wholly independent of copyright. If copyright can secure neither popularity nor a sale for a work, what can it do? It is supposed to prevent another person from pirating the works of a popular author, and so lessen the reward which the public would willingly bestow on him. Is this true? Can any man pirate the works of Dickens to his disadvantage? The pirate who sells his stolen wares at a much less price than the original work is sure, at least, to increase the number of its readers. He finds for it—witness the cheap reprints in America—a class of readers whom the original work would never reach. He carries it to those, also, who would not give the higher price, and secures the author more fame, and, in the end, more money, by making him known to a wider circle. The literary pirate, like the smuggler, diffuses a taste for a prohibited, or a highly-protected, or a taxed article; and, in the end, brings an author into vogue, or literature into fashion, and helps to make it, in spite of monopoly, generally desired. Why, too, should a literary pirate succeed where the original author fails, or falls short? How can he publish cheaper? He has no advantages. The public do not like him. They like the original man. They are honest, and delight in encouraging genius, not piracy. They demand the author's edition. They fear that any other will be incomplete. Hence all publishers are anxious to announce the author's edition. The only reason why the public prefer the pirate is, that he sells cheaper. He adapts his ware to the market; uses small print, and thin or worse paper. Of all literary works, the sum given to the author is the smallest part of the expense. The printing, the paper, the advertising is, as the rule, however large may be the author's reward, five or ten times as much. The first publisher, too, has the whole market at his command; and he can, if he pleases, choke it with all kinds of cheap editions before the pirate can reach it, and at the same expense, minus the infinitesimal sum on each copy of a popular work he gives for the copyright. An

author writes to have his book read. It is his business, or the business of his publisher, to bring it at once, by its price, within reach of the largest possible number of persons. When literature was a mere luxury, handed round only in gold-clasped folios, or hot-pressed wire-woven gilt-edged quartos, and the multitude were beginning to have a relish for the delicious viand; while there was a strong temptation, from a large profit, to bring the contents of these luxuries to the parched souls of the common people, there was a pretext at least for copyright. But now, when literature has become a necessity—when the demand for it is almost coextensive with the demand for wheat and bread—when the extent of the market for a book may be calculated with as much precision as the extent of the market for a cargo of tea and sugar, even the pretext for copyright no longer exists. The publisher that adapts his wares to the market and sells them at as low a price as they can be produced for, and in that form which is agreeable to his customers, need fear no rival and no pirates; nor need he fear buying the author's edition at a reasonable price. We have good authority for saying that copyright does not induce publishers to give a greater price to authors for their works than they otherwise would, and only in very rare cases does copyright confer any pecuniary advantage on an author or on his family. It is altogether a delusion to suppose that the law attains the promised object and secures in any degree the well-being of authors or the success of literature. Since it has been in existence, no class, not even the former, have more vexed the public ear with their demands and their complaints than literary men, and no class have so continually looked for eleemosynary relief. The law is expressly intended to stop all the diffusion of knowledge and literature which is apprehended from piracy. We may believe that it is to some extent operative in this direction, and so far as it operates it lessens the number of readers, and lessens, on the whole, the sale of books, and lessens the profit of authors and publishers. It lessens the fame, too, of an author. It lessens, therefore, the influence and dignity of literature, and is as injurious to authors and publishers as the Corn-law was to farmers, landlords, and to society. We would have authors and publishers, instead of relying on the restriction, take care of themselves. Only they can do this; the law cannot. Publishers are merchants or manufacturers, who ought especially to study and know the taste and the wants of the public, and the extent of the market for every species of literary production. At present, supposing themselves pretty certain, whatever form they may publish a book in, by other men not being allowed to use its contents for a certain period, of forcing a sale by dint of advertising and puffing, sufficient to remunerate them, they are careless and ignorant. They do not, or at least till very lately they did not, study the wants of the multitude; they thought only of a few, and endeavoured to make the public take what they chose to publish. Under the law, and their mode of working it, literature has not flourished; writers of books have not generally flourished; but the class of publications has flourished amazingly, to which hitherto it has been found impossible to extend the principle of copyright. The book trade is not, and for a long time has not been, on a good footing; and most of the literary talent of the country is directed to periodical writing. The restriction on copyright has a great deal to do with this. It makes publishers negligent, and makes them ignorant of the public wants, which they by their trade are bound to study. Since periodical writing has become popular, and since publishers have in consequence been forced to attend more to the public wants, since the book trade has been thrown more open than formerly, literature has flourished more than ever, and authors—particularly the authors of periodical literature have—been better than ever rewarded.

Newspaper copyright, which it is now proposed to try and establish, will be hereafter considered.

"OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT'S" LECTURE.

MR. JOSEPH CROWE, whose correspondence from the seat of war is so well known to the readers of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, delivered a lecture, on the subject of his experiences, at the Marylebone Institution, on Tuesday night. Mr. Crowe has a great deal to recount. Personally acquainted with Servia and the provinces—having seen Turkish life in camp and city, having seen campaigns in fighting periods and quiet ones, having had a narrow escape from death by shot on the morning of Inkerman, and death by storm during the great gale in Balaklava harbour—his personal authority on subjects which the public have generally heard of only through print made his lecture in the highest degree interesting. His narrative is lucid, flowing, and agreeable—with that colour about it which nothing but personal experience can give—and we cordially recommend our readers to take the next opportunity of hearing him on this the great subject of our time.

In descending from Servia to Bulgaria you had an opportunity (said Mr. Crowe) of comparing the Bulgarian with the Servian, the rayah with the free man. The Servian's martial attitude is exchanged for Bulgarian sullenness and stupidity. Widdin is a truly Turkish city—filthy, fetid, and narrow. The Turks principally live inside the fortress with the Jews, and the Bulgarians inhabit the suburbs. The Bulgarians of the towns are industrious but cunning. It is hard to say which will cheat the traveller most—Christian or Jew; and in that matter the Turk is as dishonest as either of them.

Mr. Crowe was introduced to Ismail Pacha (now Marshal of Turkey, and Commander of the army on the Danube), and with him visited the lines of Kalafat, which he had been the first to throw up. The mention of this circumstance led him to criticise some of the Russian movements in that quarter. This again brought him to the system of military appointments in the Turkish army, many of which are infamous Stamboul jobs. He recollected a Pacha in one of the principal towns on the Danube who spent his evenings in firing at a Cossack on the opposite side of the river, with a gun that could by no possibility carry so far. This potentate's only claim to war command was having married one of the Sultan's wives. Another Turkish grandee claimed a medal for the action of Citate on the ground that if he had been there he would have performed prodigies of valour! These men the Turkish soldiers call emphatically "men without hearts." By the way, the lecturer observed that it had been repeatedly proved that, properly led, the Turkish soldiers were capable of anything. He gave a capital sketch of Omer Pacha (among many other notabilities whose names now fly *per ora virum*). He is, among other things, "affable in manner," and "kindness beams in his great dark eyes."

Our Correspondent was the first to enter Bucharest after the Russians left it. The reception given them by the town was pleasing and unexpected. The whole population turned out, strewn flowers, and hugged them. The people of Bucharest were astonished when they heard we were going to invade the Crimea. They had a more lively idea of the difficulties we should meet there than we ourselves.

Mr. Crowe now came to the Crimean expedition, and his account of it was a happily-blended compound of anecdote and dissertation, by which the audience had all their previous knowledge of the subject, from documents, lighted up by the personal interest of the narrator's own experience. He rode on horseback 300 miles in six days, to join the expedition, when he heard of it. At Varna he got a passage in the *Trent*, commanded by the energetic Captain Ponsonby, and, arriving in the harbour of Balaklava, found a scene of novelty, liveliness, and activity—the description of which was one of the most successful bits in the lecture.

He gave the testimony of an eye-witness to the condition of the Camp—the actual results of his experience on the bloody day of Inkerman. He stated emphatically that the accounts of the state of things during the army's days of sufferings were not exaggerations; and, by a mixture of facts, reasonings, and criticisms, he gave a picture of the life there, such as was evidently received with high interest by his audience.

On Thursday evening he delivered a second lecture, at the same place; and on Tuesday evening next he will deliver the third and last of the series.

A FIRST OF APRIL HOAX.—A lady received a letter yesterday morning, alleged to be from one of the Ministerial offices, announcing the fact of the entry of the Allies in the south part of Sebastopol, and the writer excused himself from giving his name, owing to the peculiarity of his position. Though the communication was anonymous, yet the lady believed she recognised the handwriting of a friend who occupies a superior post in the department. She communicated the contents to a few of her friends, recommending discretion. In a short time, however, the news spread about of a despatch having reached the Foreign-office with the glad tidings, and the lady was so sure of the affair that she wrote in the afternoon to the friend from whom she believed she had the information expressing her joy, and inviting him to dinner. The friend wrote back, accepting the first and most intelligible condition, the dinner, but professing his inability to understand the other part of her letter, and hinting that his fair correspondent must have been mystified by some one. It was late in the evening when the affair was discovered to be a hoax; and it was only at the desert that they remembered the day of the month—that, in fact, it was the 1st of April, when such tricks, known as *poissons d'Avril*, are practised and tolerated. It is surmised, however, that the joke was not entirely a profitless one for the party who were in the confidence, as it occasioned a considerable rise in the Bourse business done on Sundays on the Italian Boulevards was the first result, and that money was made by it. The police are trying to discover the author of the letter, which, excepting the want of a signature, had all the appearance of having been issued from some official department.—*Letter from Paris, April 2.*

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THEATRES may be comparatively empty—the souls of managers may be darkened by visions of Basinghall-street—but it does not follow that theatrical amusements are unpopular in England. If they are, how comes it that not a month in the year passes without our hearing of amateur performances, got up not only with expense, but with care and attention?—from those during the “Canterbury week” (now approaching their sixteenth repetition, and looked for annually by the squires of Kent, much as the reopening of Covent-garden is expected by the Opera *habitués*), or Somebody Countess of So-and-so's aristocratic farces at a great house in the country—to the amateurings of the officers belonging to the gallant onet-oneth, who are so constantly relieving the tedium of military discipline, and delighting the nobility and gentry of Tralee or Port Patrick with “Used Up,” or “The Captain of the Watch,” and those of the “Philodramatics,” or “Rosicrants,” at the Soho Theatre. Everywhere the stage pursues you. No rank or position bars an appearance upon it, any more than in the days when Louis le Grand danced in a ballet, and *les filles de France* made up a chorus. This low comedian, who recalls John Reeve in his best days, is the secretary to a Minister; that capital light comedy actor has been a Minister himself. So when it became known that the Fielding Club—a society small in number, humble in its abode, and late in its hours, which counts among its members many of the most celebrated *littérateurs* of the day—had determined to give an amateur performance for the benefit of a popular writer whom Providence had seen fit to afflict with incapacitating sickness, no one was particularly surprised or excited. But when it transpired that the principal part of the performance was to be a pantomime, people became first incredulous, then astonished, and then they all wanted to know how to get tickets. Not one advertisement, not a poster, not a play-bill was issued; and, on a moderate computation, just about ten times more admissions were wanted than the committee of management had to give away. Covent-garden might have been filled twice over, and they had to deal with the Olympic! For ten days before the night of performance they had to sneak about in courts and alleys, taking roundabout ways through unfrequented streets: St. James's-street or Piccadilly were closed to them, for there they were beset by unsatisfied applicants, crying “A ticket, or your life!” which ticket no one had to give. A private box with four seats sold for 12 guineas; and one enthusiastic party offered, unsuccessfully, £20 for two stalls. The night of performance came at last, and those most interested in the performers were not (though they knew how well the rehearsals had gone) without disquietude; while the general public rather anticipated a *fiasco*—complicated, probably, by an accident—Clown breaking his collar-bone, or Harlequin his neck. Very few really thought that amateurs could perfectly master those rough mysteries of Pantomime, the possession of which has hitherto been supposed to be confined to some dozen professionals graced by foreign sounding names. There is a popular opinion that the flesh and blood of Clowns differ from that of other men. First there was a prologue—Shakspeare and modern drama at issue, till both have to yield (for the time) to the spirit of Pantomime. Such a dress by the by as that spirit wore! not worth a guinea, but graceful as no theatrical wardrobe-maker could have designed it. Well, there was no hitch there—nothing amateur-like (according to the general prejudice) in the way in which those smooth and brilliant lines were delivered. Then the curtain fell and rose again on the opening of the pantomime proper. Scene, the vaults under the House of Lords; present, Catesby and Guy Faux, and sundry powder-barrels, which looked as if in an earlier stage of their existence they might have held oysters; “to them,” as old stage directions say, “Lord Montague,” who tells us he was “formerly Spring Rice.” A better scene than this, whether as regards the words, the acting, the singing, or the “terrific combat” (for there was a little of everything), never was put on any stage. The audience now saw that the idea of anything like toleration to the actors, on the ground of their amateurship, was absurd; so they gave it up, and only laughed and cheered the more heartily on that account. Still there were some who were nervous about the comic business. Could a non-professional Harlequin jump through the accustomed window in the hairdresser's shop without smashing his *os frontis*—could an unpractised Clown knock Pantaloon about in the usual cruel way without maiming him for life? It is not my business to give a detailed account of the performance, so I shall content myself with saying, in one summary of praise, that through the entire length of the pantomime—in which there was more fun, more dancing, more singing, more diversifications of all kinds than in a general way would make the fortune of half a dozen theatres on boxing-night—there was not a failure, not a hitch, not even a temporary slowness. I am not pantomimic mad, and I am warranted to speak the truth on such matters of all, “though they are my friends;” but I declare the amateur pantomime of last Saturday was the very best pantomime I ever saw in my life. The intimate friendship I enjoy with all the performers precludes me from speaking of them individually, with one exception—the Columbine (of course professional), Miss Iosina Wright. Such a Columbine as that was surely never seen before; to be sure, her doing the ordinary pantomimic business was something like Bosio singing in a chorus, but she had the opportunity of showing her real quality in several introduced dances. May I hope that Mr. Gye, of Covent-garden will be able to secure two or three corymbes one-half as good dancers to support Cerito?

If a decision by Mr. Yardley, of the Thames Police Court, be correctly reported in the *Daily News* of Wednesday, the Sunday Tavern Act will prove a heavy blow and deep discouragement to the lovers of water *souée* and whitebait. Mr. Lovegrove, of the Brunswick Tavern at Blackwall, appears to have been fined forty shillings for serving a customer at half-past four on the Fast-day. Woe to Hart and Quartermaine—desolation to the Trafalgar and the Crown and Sceptre, if this be the law! What will the House of Commons say to this reading of the statute? It annihilates one of the dearest prerogatives of its members—that of eating fish dinners on Sunday at Greenwich or Blackwall.

Two or three attacks have lately been made upon the Board of Ordnance with regard to their preparations for the Camp at Aldershot. It seems to be admitted that the situation, comprising 3000 acres of open common, at an easy distance from two railways and a canal, was well chosen; but the arrangements for lodging the troops—if the accounts given by persons little likely to be misled are correct—seem to have been hitherto distinguished by all the *imprévoyance* and want of system which have marked bywords of the Commissariat at Balacava and the Hospitals at Scutari. It is proposed to construct upon this heath huts for 20,000 militia, and permanent barracks for 10,000 regular troops. The latter are but just commenced, and it is therefore too early to pass judgment on them; but, of the former, 400, out of 1260 are completed. Sir Joseph Paxton and other good judges tell us that scarcely any possible fault in their construction has been avoided. They were built without any foundation—the windows are so placed as to give the minimum of air and light—the ventilators are faulty—the planking of the roof is so arranged that the thinnest portions of the wood are those which have to bear the most strain and exposure—&c. &c., *valde quantum*. But, without pronouncing on the justice of these accusations, there are some palpable absurdities in the different contracts. For instance, the timber to be used in the construction of the huts was described in the specification as follows:—“The fir timber to be from Memel, *Riga*, or Dantzic, and the deals to be the best yellow Christiania.” Here the blundering of the Board of Ordnance is curiously exemplified in their forgetting that we happen to be at war with the country to which *Riga* belongs; and their ignorance by their requiring a supply of Christiania deals about ten times larger than could have been got from all the timber-yards in the country. Further, we are told that the employment of only one kind of brick, that called greystock, a quality hardly known out of London, is insisted upon. The cost of the huts will certainly not be less than £150,000. Now, every country gentleman, who either knows his own business, or has a steward to whom he can trust, is well aware that a row of twelve brick-built four-roomed cottages ought not to cost more than £800 to £850; it would seem, therefore, unreasonable that the 1260 wooden huts intended for our 20,000 militia men should cost within a trifle of £120 each. If, however, the *Times* is correct in asserting that, “instead of giving the work out to be done in the usual manner, the Board retained it in their own hands, collecting all the broken-down labourers and half-grown boys in the country, and paying them, not by piece-work, but by the old-fashioned system of day's wages, without any adequate supervision over them,” then it is not difficult to understand how a wooden hut can be made to cost nearly twice as much as a brick cottage.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ORIGIN OF CHESS.

BY DR. DUNCAN FORBES.

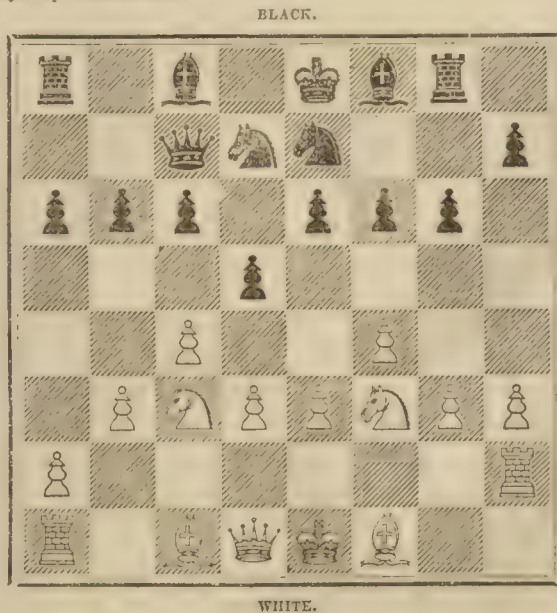
CHAPTER X.—THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDIEVAL CHESS.

(Continued from page 530.)

SECTION 1ST.—ON THE OPENING.

IN order fully to appreciate the system of tactics adopted in opening the game of Shatranj, the reader must bear in mind, once more, that the Pawns could move only one step at the first move. From this restriction on the part of the Pawns, together with the very limited range of the Queen and Bishops, it will be easily perceived that no formidable collision of the forces could have taken place till at least from ten to twenty moves had been made on either side. Hence, in order to save time, and to prevent useless exchanges, it was agreed that the first player should make his (let us say) fifteen moves all at once, without, however, crossing the middle line of the board; after which the adversary was entitled to play up, at once, an equal number of counter-moves, such as he might deem most conducive to success, being also restricted to his own half of the board. These preliminary manoeuvres the Arabs called “Ta'biyat,” which signifies “the drawing up of troops in battle array.” This term corresponds in some degree with our word “opening,” with this serious difference, that in the “Ta'biyat” all the pieces and Pawns remain on the board, each on their own side, up to the fifteenth move, more or less, which, I believe, rarely happens in our game, except in the cautious openings of 1. P to K 3rd.

In the old Arabic MS., in the British Museum, we find no fewer than eleven diagrams of “battle array,” mostly named after the old masters who established them. There is nothing said about the order in which the moves had been played up. Nor is this of any consequence; all we have to consider is the strategic position taken up by the first player—that of the opponent being supposed to exhibit the very best defensive position. It would be quite out of place here to give diagrams of all the Ta'biyats; nor would a mere dry rehearsal of their names prove of any interest to the generality of readers. I shall, therefore, confine myself to an examination of one very neat opening from the Asiatic Society's MS., folio 2 (n), which will amply suffice to explain this part of our subject. The following diagram shows the position of the respective armies after twelve moves have been played up on either side:—



Here White had the move, and, from the use he has made of it, we may clearly infer that he had in view one great and leading principle which is equally applicable to our own game. This consists “in cautiously pushing on the Pawns, so as to make room for the co-operation of the pieces; taking great care, however, not to compromise the safety of the two central Pawns.” We see that each of the Bishops' Pawns has moved two squares, so as to allow the two Knights to occupy a very attacking position. By-and-by, when the two centre Pawns can with safety be advanced, the places where they now stand will be occupied by the two Bishops, which is the best position for the latter. Observe also that in two moves more the Rooks may be doubled; one at Q Kt, and the other at Q Kt 2. Lastly, the King and Queen will move up in the rear of the centre; for, in this game, the King took an active share in the combat, and seemed to shut himself up in a corner as with us.

The position assumed by the Black is evidently defensive. The Knights are less advanced, and the Queen has moved to her B's second square. It looks as if Black expected an attack on the Queen's side, which the menacing situation of the White Rooks seems to warrant. Still, from the peculiar nature of the openings in the Shatranj, it is evident that no rapid or brilliant attack could possibly take place as in our gambits. In the Oriental game the armies were advanced into close quarters before the engagement commenced; and, therefore, the final victory really depended upon a series of skilful manoeuvres, such as might tend to lead the enemy into an unfavourable position. In fact, the Oriental game, though less brilliant than ours, appears to me to have been calculated to form better players in the true sense of the term, that is, players who excelled in carrying the contest through the middle stage of the game—a rare secret, which neither books nor preceptors can teach. Finally, the difficulty of giving the odds of the Rook, in the Shatranj, to which I alluded in our last chapter, will be abundantly obvious, when we take into account both the superior value of the Rook and the mode in which the game was opened. I think it is not too much to say that the odds of the Rook, in the Oriental game, was equivalent to the Rook and Knight, if not to the Queen, in our modern game.

SECTION 2ND.—OF END-GAMES, AND POSITIONS WON BY FORCE.

In the Shatranj the game was won in two different ways. First, by a *checkmate*, as with us; and, secondly, when one player had succeeded in capturing all his opponent's forces—provided he had any of his own forces remaining, however small. It will not be difficult to assign good reasons why the winner should have been allowed so much latitude in the Oriental game. With us, for example, the circumstance of a King and Pawn against a King, is, under certain conditions, a sure victory; but not so in the Shatranj (that is if victory depended on a checkmate), for suppose the Pawn had become a Queen, the latter possessed not the mating power. Also, with us, a Knight and Bishop, or two Bishops, against a King, can mate; but not so in the Oriental game, where, as we have shown, the Bishops were of very little value. From these considerations, and many more that might have been alleged, it is evident, that in the Shatranj if the victory depended solely on checkmate, a won game among good players would have been a rarity; and it could have occurred chiefly between a first-rate player and one decidedly his inferior.

The Arabs, and after them the Persians, call the End-game “*Mansûba*,” which corresponds exactly with our words “position” and “situation,” being a “determinate” Chess problem, the solution of which is reduced to a certainty. It would appear that their best players prided themselves on their readiness of seizing on such positions as led to victory in a certain number of moves. Hence the epithet “*mansûba-dân*,” “a man cunning in positions,” became figuratively to signify “a prudent,” or “far-sighted” man. So the term “*mansûba-bâz*,” literally, “a position player,” denoted “a first-rate Chess-player.” Such appears to have been Ali Shatranji, of whom it was said that no mortal could either divine his coming move, or perceive its purpose when made.

We have already shown several specimens of Oriental positions won by checkmate, we shall now conclude this section with a position won by a superiority of force. It is from the Museum MS., No. 16,856, fol. 41 A, where White plays first and wins in four or five moves.

White: K at his Kt 5th, Q at K Kt 4th, R at Q R 8th, Ps at K B 7th and K Kt 6th.

Black: K at his Kt 2nd, K B at his own sq, R at K R 8th.

SOLUTION.—White R takes B; and, as his best move, Black K takes R. 2. White K to his B 4th; and Black R takes B. 3. White Q intercepts at K B 5th; and, as his best, Black R moves to his Kt 5th. 4. White P checks; and Black R takes P. 5. Q to K Kt 6th, shutting up Black R. If R takes Q, K takes, and the game is won by a majority of force. If R takes P, Q takes R, and the game is won by a majority of force. Lastly, if R moves to R 2nd, Q takes R, and wins by *salamé*. It will be seen here, then, that with the Oriental game, the player who had the advantage at least, when the statedmate King had no other piece or Pawn left on the board. If, however, the Black King had any piece or Pawn left up anywhere on the board, he was allowed (in case of a stale) to change places with any such piece or Pawn at his own option, provided always he did not promote check by so doing.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Orders have been forwarded by the Minister of Marine to the Maritime Prefects at Brest and Cherbourg to fit out several steamers of the Imperial Navy, which are to accompany the Emperor and Empress on their visit to England.

The Prince and Princess of Saxe-Coburg and suite arrived at the Waterloo station of the South-Western Railway at half-past twelve o'clock on Saturday, and at once proceeded, in Royal carriages which were in waiting, to Buckingham Palace, on a visit to her Majesty.

In Court circles at Vienna a rumour prevails that a Prince of the Imperial Austrian family is shortly to pay a visit to Paris on a special mission. It is said that a brother of the Emperor will be charged to make this visit, and that it will take place before the opening of the Exhibition.

The rumour runs in Constantinople that the Sultan intends to accompany the Emperor of the French to the Crimea, should the visit of the latter take place.

The following entry appeared in one of the recent returns made by the Vienna police agents to their superiors:—“Lord John Russell has walked arm-in-arm on the glacis with Prince Gortschakoff.”

The King of Hanover has conferred the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Guelphs upon General de Budberg, Adjutant-General of the Emperor of Russia.

It is the alphabet which fixes the order in which the Plenipotentiaries are to vote, and sign the minutes—viz., Austria, France, Great Britain, Russia, and Turkey. The Congress holds only three sittings a week.

The Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia, and niece of the King, died on the 30th ult., in a very sudden and unexpected manner. The King was very much attached to her, and her death has produced great affliction at the Court.

The Earl of Aberdeen has received more favourable accounts of the health of Lord Haddo. His Lordship found himself much benefited by the climate of Upper Egypt, where he intends to remain until the middle of June.

The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas are making preparations to return to the Crimea.

The Duchess Regent of Parma gave a private audience on the 25th ult. to the Marquis of Normandy, who presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Parma, as well as to the Grand Ducal Court of Tuscany.

The King of Holland arrived at Amsterdam on the 30th ult. A vast crowd awaited his Majesty's approach, and saluted him with loud acclamations. The whole city was ornamented with the national colours and flags of the House of Orange.

Captain Broch, deputed by the British Government to concert the necessary arrangements for embarking the Piedmontese contingent, arrived at Turin on the 26th ult.

M. de Kisseleff has continued his journey to St. Petersburg, where it is said he will occupy a post at the Foreign-office.

The Grand Duchess Regent of Parma, in order to give encouragement to agricultural pursuits, has ordered that cattle shows shall be regularly held in her States.

The King of Prussia has decreed that the Sixteenth Cuirassiers shall bear for ever the name of the Emperor Nicholas, and that the Third Regiment of Hulus shall take the name of the present Emperor of Russia.

Captain Douglas, who took out the General Screw Company's steamer *Dioscurus* to Australia, has been appointed Harbour-master at Port Phillip, with a salary of £2000 a year and residence.

Death has been busy among the notables of Greece. General Tsavellas, the hero of Missolonghi; Gardikiotis Griyas, formerly Palace-Marshal; and Deliany, formerly President of the Senate, have died within the space of ten days.

Among the passengers who arrived at Marseilles last week from Malta is the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Charles Fitzroy.

The Archduchess Mary Dorothy, widow of the Prince Palatine Joseph, and mother of the Duchess of Brabant, died last week at Buda, in Hungary, aged fifty-eight.

The *Independence* of Brussels states that M. d'Usedom, finding himself in a false position at London, demanded his recall, and has received a letter from the King of Prussia, requesting him to remain provisionally at his post.

Baron Prevost, formerly private Secretary to Kings Louis XVIII. and Charles X., died a few days ago, at the château of Voisenon, aged seventy-three.

The late Right Hon. James Grattan has bequeathed the sum of £8500 to some of the most deserving medical charities in Ireland.

The Vladika of Montenegro has ordered a ten days' mourning, of the deepest kind, for the late Czar. Hopes are entertained that Alexander II. will appreciate this manifestation, and restore the pension of 2000 zedkins per annum, which Nicholas cut off in 1842.

Louis, ex-King of Bavaria, visited Munich on the 25th ult. The streets were crowded with people, anxious to welcome him.

Victor Hugo and his sons are engaged in writing a work descriptive of the history, customs, and scenery of Jersey.

Jenny Lind has left Holland for Dresden; but has promised to return and resume her professional avocations after Easter.

Judge Halliburton, author of “*Sam Slick*,” &c., is at present on a visit to his son-in-law, the Rev. J. Bainbridge Smith, at Ranby, near Wragby, Lincolnshire.

The editor of the *New York Herald* announces his intention to commence civil actions against the proprietors of the *Tribune*, for libels lately published in that paper. He demands at least 50,000 dollars damages.

Madame Bishop and M. Bochs, who have been very successful in South America and in California, are going to make the tour of Australia.

As soon as the Paris Exhibition opens, a daily steam-packet communication will be established between Southampton and Havre.

Church-going has become a very expensive matter in San Francisco. At a recent sale of pews, several sold as high as 1200 dollars, equivalent to about 23 dollars per Sunday.

Several of the English missionaries lately expelled from Poland for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures have arrived at Hamburg on their way home.

The Government has decided to send no more malt liquor to the Black Sea. The East India Company are sending out 90,000 barrels for the use of the troops in India—all of this year's brewing.

The First Chamber of Prussia has adopted a motion inviting the Government to shorten the annual Parliamentary session!

The total cost of the contributions sent to the Paris Exhibition from New South Wales is £10,000, £4000 of which was spent in purchasing gold specimens.

The convention between the Governments of France and Holland for the reciprocal protection of literary property was signed at the Hague on the 29th ult.

A native of the parish of Lairg, Sutherlandshire, who emigrated a considerable number of years ago, has returned to this country, after residing, it is said, a fortune of £300,000.

There are to be two days in each week set apart for free admission to the Paris Exhibition, that “the people” may have the full benefit of the event.

For the year ending September 1st, 1854, the advertising and printing for the Corporation of New York cost the city 73,231 dollars.

Amongst the Sydney contributions to the Paris Exhibition are a statuette in gold of a gold-digger with all his implements, and a statuette in silver of an Australian of native race.

The Bank of Rome is in so precarious a condition that it is preparing to wind up its affairs. It is to be succeeded by another bank, to be established by Prince Torlonia and Messrs. de Rothschild.

A new treaty has been signed between Sardinia and England, guaranteeing the right of coasting trade to the subjects of each country, on terms of equality.

The French Mint is now engaged in striking gold pieces of 100f., which will be soon put into circulation. These coins, which are rather smaller than a five-franc piece, have on the reverse the Imperial arms.

The estimated value of the aggregate imports into the United Kingdom from Archangel last year was 2,658,198.

The sittings of the French Legislative Corps will be prolonged to the 11th of April.

The monster West India steamer *Parana* has been taken up by the French Government.

An excellent company of dramatic artists will visit Paris during the period of the Exposition, and play the most esteemed and classical dramas of the Italian stage.

Last year the revenue derived from newspaper stamps, at one penny duty, was £464,009 1s. 7d. The number issued was 111,362,179.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY
OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

OUR Illustrations for this week are excellent representations of the strength of the Exhibition in the poetic treatment of female beauty, and the faithful rendering of the English landscape.

We are indebted to Mr. C. Baxter, now an established favourite in Suffolk-street, for a picture which he calls, somewhat obscurely, "Sunshine." We will not, however, quarrel with a graceful artist, for an unmeaning title, but are perfectly content to accept his picture for what it is worth, and even without a name. "Sunshine" brings before us what Dryden is said to have seen in the studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller:—

Once I beheld the fairest of her kind,
And still the sweet idea charms my mind.
True, she was dumb: for Nature gazed
So long,
Pleased with her work, that she forgot
her tongue;
But, smiling said, she still shall gain
the prize,
I only have transferred it to her eyes.

Mr. Baxter's "Sunshine" does all but speak; those eyes of "dewy light" are worthy of Burns or Moore, of Lely or Lawrence.

Mr. Gosling has given us (No. 507) a delicious landscape, called "Church Pool, Wargrave." This is a sylvan scene close to the Thames, in its mid way between Cirencester and London. Very full, indeed, of what is beautiful in nature and skilful in art is this picture. The atmosphere is pure and healthy, the trees delicately manipulated, and the whole effect irresistibly pleasing. We have not seen Church Pool for many years, but Mr. Gosling has induced us to renew our acquaintance with a favourite spot. We shall see it once more, and thank Mr. Gosling for sending us there.

PATRIOTIC FUND EXHIBITION.

WHEN some future Horace Walpole shall compile a Catalogue of Royal and Noble Artists, he will have to include her Majesty, her illustrious Consort, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, and the Princess Helena; and, while describing their works, will doubtless find occasion to lament that the taste and skill in Art exhibited by her Majesty and her children had not been evinced by her Majesty's predecessors on the throne. Had King George the Second and Queen Caroline cultivated the Fine Arts, art in England had stood higher in Continental estimation than it does at present. The love for art and the skill displayed in it by the present reigning family, will materially assist in bringing our school of painting to a nearer level with the great Continental schools. If her Majesty would woo the Muse



"SUNSHINE."—PAINTED BY C. BAXTER.—EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

(Queen Elizabeth wrote English verses), drooping Poetry might once more revive among us.

We alluded last week to the contributions made by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and his brothers and sisters, to the Patriotic Fund Exhibition of Works of Amateur Artists, and we are this week enabled to engrave two characteristic examples from the series—one by the Prince of Wales, "The Knight;" the other by Prince Alfred, "The Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V." Critics as well as courtiers see proofs of merit in these drawings, that evince a taste for art deserving cultivation. We see this, and more. We see a chivalric feeling in them, which would have warmed the blood of Sir Philip Sidney or Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

FINE ARTS.

VAN LERIU'S PICTURE OF "ADAM AND EVE."

M. Van Leri's large picture of "Adam and Eve," of which there has been much talk lately in Art circles, is now on view at 57, Pall-mall. It is of large dimensions, very original in the idea and construction, executed with immense painstaking and artistic skill; and, besides, is attractive and striking, from the very nature of the subject and of the materials introduced. It is an important contribution, therefore, to the credit of the Belgian School of Art, of which the painter is a distinguished ornament; and will, for a season, command the attention, and perhaps divide the opinions, of the critical public. In this work the First Parents are represented as before the Fall. They are both asleep—Adam in a half-sitting, half-reclining posture across the picture; whilst Eve reposes in his bosom; her limbs being carelessly gathered up, and her head thrown back; whilst her magnificent golden tresses fall in rich masses over her arms and the upper part of the figure. The eyes and the mouth are slightly open; the latter affording the faintest indication of a pearly set of teeth. The face is altogether a very beautiful study. The profile face of Adam is less striking, and as some would declare somewhat commonplace. The figures—seen of course in the nude—are treated in such a manner as to avoid all danger of offence. They are not after the classic ideal model, but obviously from Flemish originals; the female rather above than under the middle size, with long, well rounded limbs, and flesh fair and pulpy; the man long-limbed, and with fully sufficient muscular development for Adam in the days anterior to the imposition of the penalty of labour. The texture throughout, seen under the dubious gaslight in which the picture is exhibited, appears to have been most carefully and successfully finished.

We have now to mention a third figure, which completes the group—



"CHURCH POOL, WARGRAVE."—PAINTED BY W. W. GOSLING.—EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.



"THE KNIGHT."—DRAWN BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.
PRESENTED TO THE PATRIOTIC FUND EXHIBITION.



"THE PRINCE OF WALES, AFTERWARDS HENRY V."—DRAWN BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALFRED.
PRESENTED TO THE PATRIOTIC FUND EXHIBITION.

namely, that of the "Evil One," a dark-skinned personage, who stands in an attitude of vindictive triumph over his intended victims. In the left hand he grasps a coiled serpent of green colour, whilst his right is stretched out menacingly over the sleeping mortals; and his eyes, which glare in a setting of lurid red, are cast towards heaven, with an expression of impious defiance. We have more doubt about the judgment shown in the introduction and treatment of this figure than of the other two. It certainly destroys the harmony; and the figure itself is but a transfer from the conventional stage demon, of which little Wieland used to give us so many samples at the Adelphi. In the landscape a similar contrast is introduced as that shown between the figures. In the foreground, where Adam and Eve repose, is the most delicious herbage, enriched with flowers and fruits; in the background, the sky is obscured and lowering, streaked with the fiery warnings of an approaching storm.

ART-UNION PUBLICATIONS.

The publications of the London Art-Union for the present year are of a peculiarly attractive character, and will be sure to engage the sympathies and the applause of the numerous subscribers. The subjects selected for the large Presentation Print is the "Water Party," by J. J. Chalon, R.A.—a gay and brilliant scene, full of incident and material. Two state barges proudly float upon the water in front of a palatial building, down the steps of which a group of high dames and cavaliers are descending, as setting out upon the promised festive excursion. The engraving has been executed in a very superior manner by J. T. Willmore, A.R.A.

The "Thirty Illustrations of Child Harold," from original drawings by Cope, R.A., Faed, Goodall, A.R.A., J. Gilbert, Tenniel, Selous, Wehnert, E. Duncan, &c.—engraved by J. L. Williams, J. Thompson, Dalziel, Smyth, Meason, the Lintons, &c.—are most charming productions, and afford gratifying proof of the wonderful strides which have been made within our time, in the art of wood-engraving. Landscapes and figure subjects of every clime and age are judiciously interspersed throughout the volume, which will form a most acceptable and graceful addition to the drawing-room table.

"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER." Painted by H. BARRAUD, Engraved by W. T. DAVY. T. Boys.

This is a companion to several works of a similar kind, illustrative of Scripture subjects, which have become so popular of late years. It represents a mother inculcating the well-known commandment to her son, an intelligent and ingenious-looking lad. Engraved in mezzotint, oval form.

ST. JOHN AND THE LAMB. Painted by MURILLO, Engraved by FREDERICK BACON. T. Boys.

We are glad to see that the works of the real masters of art are still considered eligible subjects for investment by our publishers. Murillo's "St. John and the Lamb" is one of his most effective and popular works in the National Gallery, and never fails to please by its natural treatment and its suggestive poetry. The engraving, in line, by F. Bacon, has been executed in the first style of art; nothing can be finer in their way than the flesh surface and the soft woolly coating of the lamb.

NICHOLAS I., LATE EMPEROR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS. By SIR EDWIN LANDSEER, R.A. VINCENT BROOKE, Lith. J. Hogarth.

This little outline sketch, taken from life, represents the late Czar—the terror and scourge of Europe—in rather a different aspect from that of some of the larger and more finished portraits; still, we cannot doubt the general verisimilitude—especially the life and truth which speak in that close knitted brow, and earnest downcast eye. Published subsequently to the death of the original, this may be looked upon as the shadow of a mysterious apparition, and is worthy of preservation as an historical curiosity.

PRESENTATION OF A WAR TROPHY TO STAFFORD.

A VERY interesting event was commemorated on Tuesday (last week) at Stafford, when a trophy of the Burmese War was presented to the county by Colonel Hutchinson and the officers of the 80th Regiment. The trophy was captured at the taking of Rangoon. It is a finely cast bell, composed, we believe, principally of silver; it is eighteen inches in diameter, and proportionately high, and weighs about 200 lbs. An inscription, in Oriental characters, runs round the bell in lines: so far as the inscription has been translated, it would seem to be dedicated to Gaudama—a deity of the Burmans.



BURMESE BELL, PRESENTED TO THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

The 80th Regiment, by whose officers the Bell was presented, was originally raised by the late lamented Marquis of Anglesey, who was a Captain in the Staffordshire Militia. About five hundred of the Militia volunteered to enter the line, under the command of their Captain: hence the title of the regiment—"The Staffordshire Volunteers;" the remainder being recruited from the county at large. Soon after their formation (in 1793), the regiment entered upon active warfare; and from that time down to the middle of the present century, they have contributed in an eminent degree to the renown of the British arms. During the long period of sixty years, few British regiments have been oftener engaged with the enemy, and none with greater distinction. Among the later victories achieved, with the assistance of the 80th, was the capture of Rangoon on the 14th April, 1852, and where they secured, among other trophies of the war, a bell, which, with others, was hung at the base of the Dagon Pagoda. The pagoda was hung round with bells of different sizes, varying from eight feet in diameter to eighteen inches. In consequence of the want of proper machinery to remove the larger bells, which were of immense weight, the regiment were compelled to content themselves with securing some of the smaller ones, including the trophy which has now been presented to Stafford.

The presentation took place on the evening of Tuesday week, when a large party of gentlemen assembled at dinner at the Swan Hotel. The officers of the 80th were efficiently represented on the occasion by Major Ormsby. Most of the officers of the 2nd Regiment of Staffordshire Militia, now quartered in Stafford, were present.

The dinner was served in the handsome new assembly-room of the hotel.

The Bell was placed on a table at the end of the room, behind the Chairman, and attracted considerable attention.

The Mayor of Stafford, J. H. Webb, Esq., presided, and Captain Hargreaves occupied the vice-chair. Major Ormsby, of the 80th Regiment, sat on the right of the Mayor; and Major Dyott, of the 2nd Regiment of Staffordshire Militia, on his left. The company numbered about fifty.

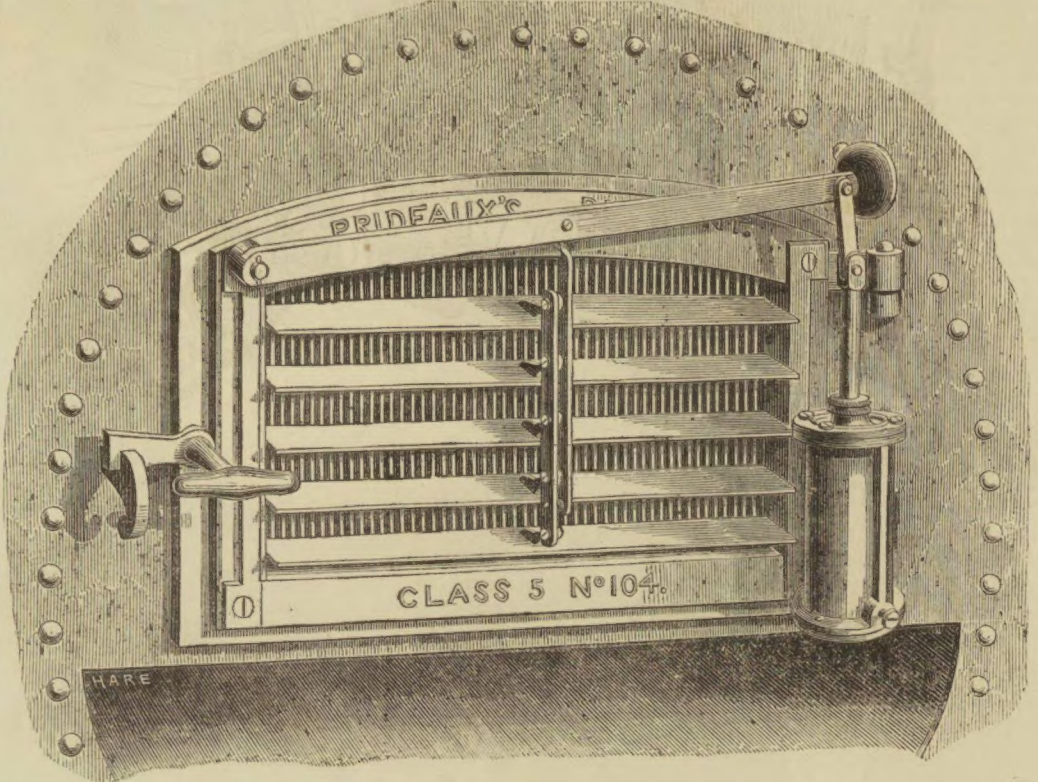
A variety of toasts were drunk; and Major Ormsby, in responding to his health, and "the Officers of the 80th Regiment," said, he would avail himself of that opportunity of presenting to the Mayor and Corporation and the inhabitants of Stafford a Bell which was captured by the 80th Regiment at Rangoon, on the 14th April, 1852 (Cheers); and he had no doubt that the Corporation of Stafford would cause the Bell to be placed in the County-hall, where the inhabitants of the county at large, as well as those of the town of Stafford, would equally have access to it (Hear and cheers). It might not be uninteresting to them to mention that on the occasion of casting a bell, such as that which he had been deputed to present to the town, the inhabitants of the place, as well as of the suburban villages, and indeed of the entire country for miles around, would attend; and while the metal was in a state of fusion the Burmese women of all ranks, walking round it in procession, would throw into it the ornaments which they had worn, consisting of gold, silver, and brass, according to their station in life; and the whole being fused together, were offered in the shape of a bell to the deity Gaudama, whose votaries they were.

A recruiting party of the 80th Regiment, including a sergeant who was present at the capture of Rangoon, being in the town, the Mayor liberally ordered that a dinner should be provided for them at the Royal Oak, in order that they might also be partakers in the festivities of the day. The other recruiting parties in the town were also invited; and about thirty sat down to dinner.

PRIDEAUX'S SELF-CLOSING FURNACE-VALVE, FOR PREVENTING SMOKE.

In the month of May last, in the anticipation of the speedy coming into operation of the Smoke Act, we thought it time to direct our attention to the subject of its prevention in our own establishment. So little favourable was our own experience and the reports that reached us of the operation of the various inventions before the public for obviating the nuisance, that we determined to have recourse to the use of smokeless coal. We here, however, encountered the difficulty of not being able to obtain a sufficiency of steam to drive our machinery, although the firing was pushed to such an extent as partially to melt the fire-bars. In this dilemma, our attention was directed to a new invention for preventing smoke, recently brought before the public by Mr. Prideaux, author of the "Treatise on Economy of Fuel," in Weale's Series. Although, upon examination, this invention appeared to us to be sound in principle, and carried into effect with great mechanical simplicity, yet, knowing the vast difference between theory and practice, and being influenced by the uniform failures of other inventions for the same object, in which our previous experience consisted, we must confess to having felt very considerable distrust as to any decided success being achieved; and we only consented to its being tried in our establishment upon condition that the apparatus should be fixed, and, if not approved of, removed entirely at the expense of the inventor; and also that the regular daily working of the machinery should not be interfered with.

These terms having been readily acceded to, one day, when we were in full work, Mr. Prideaux's engineer made his appearance and measured the doorway of our furnace. At the expiration of a week he again presented himself (we being in full work), opened the furnace-door, and a piece of plank being



FRONT VIEW OF VALVE AS FIXED IN FURNACE DOOR.

held against the mouth of the furnace, so as effectually to close it, and prevent its action being in any way affected, he unhung our old door and hung in its place a new door frame, with the self-closing valve attached. The plank was removed, the door closed, and the affair was perfect. The rapidity and completeness with which the opening of the valve dissipated the smoke exceeded our most sanguine expectations; and from that time to the present—a period of more than ten months—its performance has never varied, but continued all that we could desire.

It is comparatively easy to get rid of smoke, if the consumption of fuel and production of steam be disregarded. A few perforations in the door or bridge will attain the object; but the effect of this continuous admission of air above the fuel will be to diminish the supply of steam from twenty-five to thirty per cent, as many can testify to their cost.

The superiority of Mr. Prideaux's invention consists in this—that it only admits a full supply of air immediately after coaling; lessens the supply as less becomes required from the fuel becoming coked; and, finally, shuts it off altogether, when, from this operation being complete, no more is desirable; burning in fact all the smoke by the admission on the average of only one-fifth part the quantity of air above the fuel which would enter on the principle of continuous supply.

Another feature of this invention worthy of notice is the coolness (we may say, without exaggeration, coldness) of the furnace-door. During the time of the action of the valve, the face of the door is reduced to the temperature of the entering stream of air; and it rarely rises above this in the intervals when it is closed, so extraordinary is the effect of the peculiar arrangement of plates in the interior (presenting a surface of 8000 square inches) in arresting the passage of heat.

A large body of evidence leads to the conclusion that the saving is never less than 10 per cent in Cornish boilers, and 15 per cent in brick furnaces; on which supposition it is clear that, irrespective of the question of smoke, the adoption of the invention becomes a matter of economy.

In no case, however, does the introduction of this invention offer such great advantages as in that of steam-vessels, from the confined character of the stoke-hole. This forcibly suggested itself to our mind the first time we placed our hand on our fire-door after the application of the valve; and we are glad to see our own impressions on this point confirmed by the high authority of Mr. Fairbairn, who, at a recent meeting of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, after remarking "that it would, doubtless, be an advantageous addi-

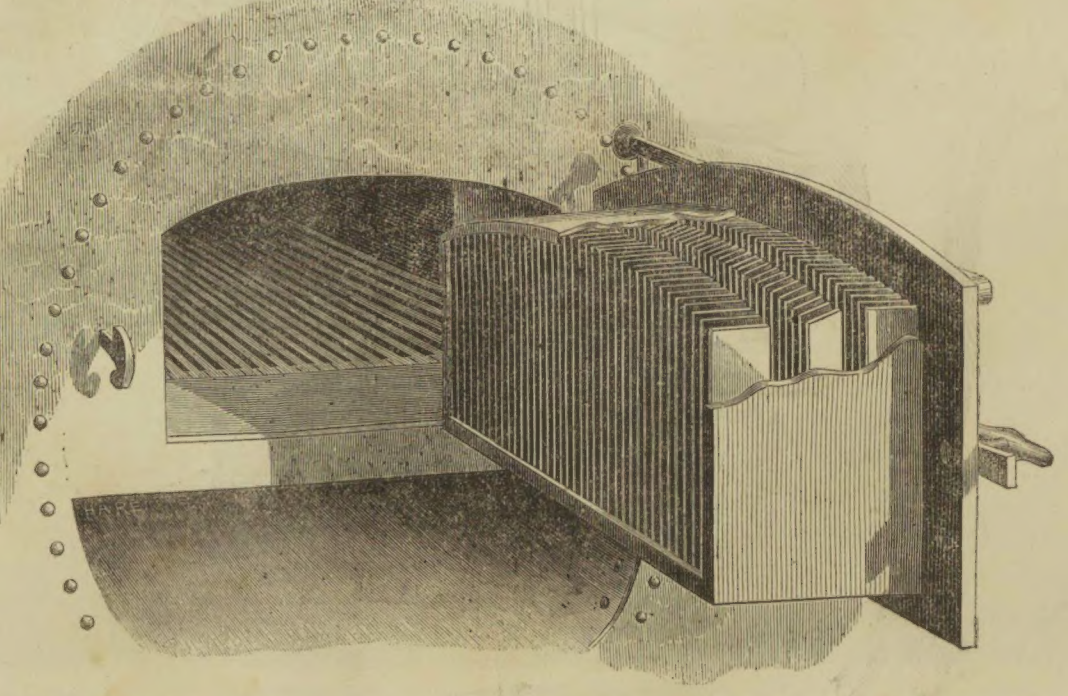
tion to any boiler, however well constructed for burning the smoke, by making the process more complete and certain in its effects," proceeded to observe, "that the apparatus appeared particularly applicable to marine boilers, where the heat of the stoke-hole was ordinarily very objectionable, and interfered seriously with the duties of the men; and he was surprised it had not been taken up by the marine authorities on that account, as well as for effecting the consumption of smoke. Those valves that he had seen at work certainly kept quite cool and in very complete order, and had not been injured at all by the heat."

We learn from Mr. Prideaux that the invention is already introduced on the Tyne, the Clyde, and the Mersey; and will be in the Danish navy in the course of this summer. In short, the invention of Mr. Prideaux bids fair to become as uniform an appendage to the furnace as the generator is to the steam-engine.

Should any of our readers desire to become further acquainted with the Smoke question, we recommend them to read "A Lecture on the Prevention of Smoke, delivered before the United Service Institution, by Mr. Prideaux," and published by Weale, at 6d., as containing the clearest and most concise exposition of the subject we have seen.

THE LEVIATHAN SHIP.—Most persons have doubtless heard of the immense iron ship now building by Messrs. Scott Russell and Co., but few can form a true conception of her size from mere figures. She will be, when completed, 679 feet long, 83 feet wide, and 53 deep. Now these are, as nearly as possible, the dimensions of the garden in the centre of Bryanstone-square, which is about 680 feet long and 84 feet wide; and the height of the houses in the square about the same as the depth of the ship, 53 feet. Thus, a person walking round the square may form some idea of the colossal size of this immense structure.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY.—On Thursday week, the 29th March, the foundation-stone of the Junior United Service Club, Regent-street, was laid by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, with the ancient mall belonging to this lodge, which was used at the laying of the foundation-stone of St. Paul's, by King Charles II. This is the first time the lodge has ever lent the mall for other than masonic business; and upon this occasion it was entrusted to the care of Br. Threlton, the secretary of the boys' school, to whom it was returned by his Lordship the instant the ceremony was completed.—*Masonic Mirror.*



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